

**SOCRATES, THE NAZIS & OJ SIMPSON** 10 TRIALS THAT MADE HISTORY

# HISTORY

## REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE  
ISSUE 33 // SEPTEMBER 2016 // £4.50

**Nefertiti:**  
mystery of  
the queen  
who vanished



# THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

From bakehouse blaze to towering inferno: who was to blame?

**ALSO**

**CHAIRMAN MAO**

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

**THE DEATH OF JAMES DEAN**

IDI AMIN'S REIGN OF TERROR



**THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL**  
Haunting pics from both sides



**MICHELANGELO**  
The tortured soul hidden in the Sistine Chapel



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Wednesday 26 October	Basingstoke	The Anvil
Thursday 27 October	Bristol	Colston Hall
Sunday 30 October	High Wycombe	Wycombe Swan
Tuesday 1 November	London	Cadogan Hall
Sunday 6 November	Canterbury	Marlowe Theatre
Friday 18 November	Manchester	Bridgewater Hall
Saturday 19 November	Nottingham	Royal Concert Hall
Sunday 20 November	Birmingham	Symphony Hall
Wednesday 30 November	Eastbourne	Congress Theatre
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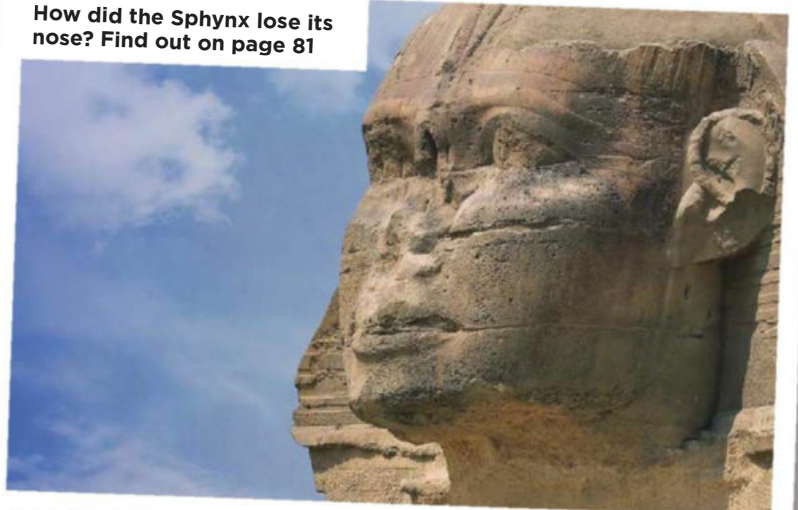
# Welcome



It was **350 years ago** this month that the diarist Samuel Pepys seemed to be rather enjoying the Great Fire of London. Having taken pride in **advising King Charles II about the blaze** he'd observed from the tower of All Hallows, **he took to the river**, watching proceedings with his wife, before **retiring to the Anchor pub** for safety and refreshment. But soon the fire became less of a novelty and, as the reality of the disaster began to unfold, Pepys, the King and many others took to the streets to **save what they could of the capital**. And that's just the beginning. Read on from page 28.

Elsewhere, **we unravel mysteries** of various kinds. We separate fact from fiction with the story of how **Michelangelo painted the Sistine Chapel** (p46), hiding references to his torment within the famous frescos. Then there's the puzzling story of Nefertiti (p71), the **Egyptian queen who**, along with her husband, Pharaoh Akhenaten, destroyed the pantheon of Egyptian gods before vanishing from history.

How did the Sphinx lose its nose? Find out on page 81



In addition, we have **our regular mix of adventure, battles and characters**, as well as plenty of trivia and stories from the stranger side of history.

Please do **keep on writing in** – we love to hear what you've thought about what you've read, or would like to read about, and **you could win a fantastic prize** (p7)!

Paul McGuinness  
Editor

**Don't miss our October issue, on sale 15 September**

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## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

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The number of decades that Jean Thurel spent in the service of the French army. See page 24.

37,000

The height, in feet, that a griffon vulture was flying when struck by a plane in 1973. It remains the highest recorded bird flight in history. See page 98.

8

The speed, in miles per hour, Walter Arnold was driving in 1896 when police pulled him over for speeding. See page 82.

Photo: Simon J. Childs/Intergalactic Gorilla Productions



Without action now the Grauer's gorilla could be gone forever – please cut the coupon or go to [www.savegorillas.org.uk](http://www.savegorillas.org.uk) to help protect the remaining 3,800 gorillas.

**Consumed by conflict and caught in the grip of a severe conservation crisis, the Grauer's gorilla – the world's largest gorilla – is fighting for survival.**

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has put out an urgent call to the global community to save the remaining 3,800 or so Grauer's gorillas.

Funds are sought immediately to help protect new community nature reserves that are essential to the survival of the remaining gorillas between the Maiko and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It is a crucial step towards protecting these elusive and Endangered apes from complete extinction.

The Grauer's gorilla faces multiple threats to its survival – all of them due to human activity. A major expansion of agriculture and pastures in the DRC in recent years has put enormous strain on the gorilla's shrinking habitat. Industry, too, has taken its toll, with natural habitats squeezed by extensive mining for gold and coltan – a mineral used in making mobile phones. Hunting and the continuing consumption of illegal 'bush meat' have also caused many apes to be killed. What's more, continuous conflict has made it incredibly challenging to enforce wildlife protection.

As a result, numbers of Grauer's gorillas have plummeted. Just 15 years ago there were around 17,000 Grauer's gorillas in the wild. Today, scientists believe that at most 3,800 may still remain alive.

Conservationists are now calling for the species to be reclassified as Critically Endangered. We must act as quickly as

possible to save the remaining gorillas – and FFI needs your urgent help to do it.

FFI wants to protect existing gorilla families in a vulnerable – currently unprotected – area between the Maiko and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks. These families are vital to saving the remaining Grauer's gorillas from extinction.

This gorilla protection has only become possible in recent years. Since the elections in the DRC in 2006, and the increased stability that came with them, conservation teams are starting to consolidate a series of community reserves to ensure the gorillas are fully protected.

For the species to remain genetically viable, it is crucial that the gorilla families can interbreed and are not separated by deforestation and agriculture expansion in an unprotected area. FFI knows community managed land is a sustainable way to achieve this.

These community reserves are absolutely vital to the future of the remaining Grauer's gorillas – because they will prevent the gorilla population becoming fragmented.

To do all this FFI needs to raise £130,489.56 with the help of readers of History Revealed to protect 10,847.67 km<sup>2</sup> of forest, where the gorillas are at risk. The £130,489.56 must be raised as soon as possible so that the team at FFI have time to plan ahead.

Meanwhile unprotected gorillas are dying from the threats they face every day. The Grauer's gorilla is on the very edge of survival. Together we can save it. Please send your gift by 19 September at the latest.

**Gorillas like Chimanuka need your help**

Chimanuka is a silverback that lives in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. There are 17 gorillas in Chimanuka's family including 5 females and 11 infants. Your support could help protect their natural habitat and ensure their future survival.

Photo: Alison Mollon



# One of the world's rarest apes faces extinction

## Population plummets by 77% from 17,000 to around 3,800

Dear readers of History Revealed: Fauna & Flora International (FFI) have launched an emergency appeal to raise £130,489.56 that will enable them to push ahead with the protection of new Community Reserves in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is crucial to the battle to save the Endangered Grauer's gorilla from extinction. You can contribute by cutting the coupon below, visiting [www.savegorillas.org.uk](http://www.savegorillas.org.uk) or calling 01223 749019. Please respond by 19 September.

### How you can help save the Grauer's gorilla

£130,489.56 is sought from readers of History Revealed by 19 September to urgently protect a series of community nature reserves that will safeguard the gorillas in unprotected areas – where they are at risk of losing their habitat and being killed by hunters. These are a few of the items needed:

- £40.10 could pay for rations for a gorilla survey team
- £129.36 could pay for fuel to run the team's off-road vehicle for a month
- £258.72 could pay for a GPS unit and batteries, to help the teams locate gorilla families in the dense rainforest
- £679.15 could pay for a satellite phone, to help the teams report and respond to emergencies
- £19,180 could fund the entire DRC conservation team for 6 months.

Any donations, large or small, will be received with thanks and could go a long way to helping us to save the Grauer's gorilla.

**Cut the coupon below and return it with your gift to FFI, to help save the remaining 3,800 Endangered Grauer's gorillas. Alternatively, go to [www.savegorillas.org.uk](http://www.savegorillas.org.uk) or call 01223 749019. Thank you.**

Photo: Gill Shaw/FFI



"The Maiko and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks in the DRC are home to some of the most endangered species in Africa, including the Grauer's gorilla. However, as human populations in the region expand so too does the risk from habitat loss. A participatory form of conservation is giving these communities a means to exist and is helping the Grauer's gorilla and other wildlife. Time is short and I urge supporters of FFI to quickly back this vital work that is crucial to the survival of the Grauer's gorilla."

**Sir David Attenborough OM FRS,  
Fauna & Flora International vice-president**

**I want to help save the remaining 3,800 Grauer's gorillas with a donation of £**



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Surname

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Postcode  Phone No

Please update me by email at

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Type of card: Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐ CAF ☐

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The David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ, UK  
or go to [www.savegorillas.org.uk](http://www.savegorillas.org.uk) to donate online now.**

Please note: If Fauna & Flora International succeeds in raising more than £130,489.56 from this appeal, funds will be used wherever they are most needed.

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Secrets of  
Michelangelo's  
masterpieces

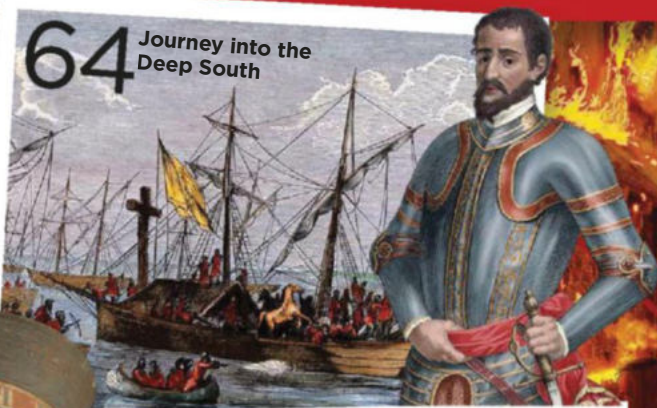
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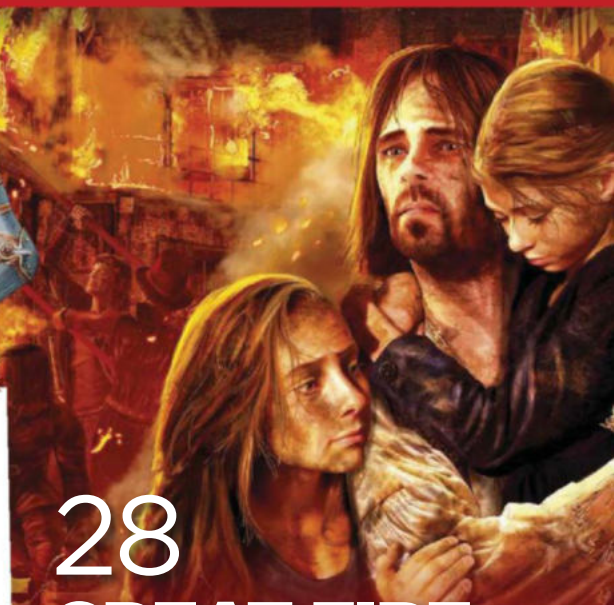
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## READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

### FIGHT TO THE DEATH

Thank you for a fascinating feature on Muhammad Ali's struggle to clear his name back in the sixties (August 2016).

It is criminal to think of how such a unique talent was

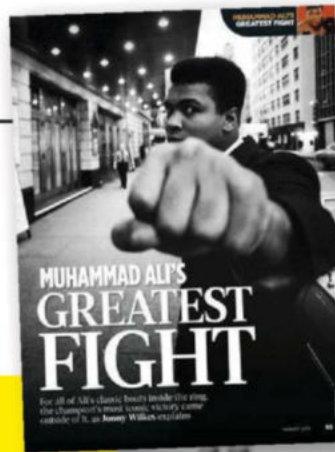
a hero for refusing to give in to a system that saw 'his people' oppressed in their own land. It only serves to bring home, in light of recent events in the United States, how far humankind still has to go in

**"It is criminal to think of how such a unique talent was robbed of his prime years"**

robbed of his prime years, simply because he didn't believe in the Vietnam War. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but to us today, he seems not only justified in his protest, but that he should be seen as

order to rid itself of racial and religious hatred and prejudice. Thank you for reminding us of the difference one man can – and did – make.

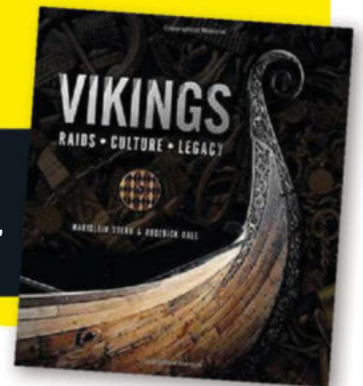
**Ellen Staples,**  
New York City, USA



**LETTER  
OF THE  
MONTH**

**HITTING OUT**  
Ellen Staples believes Ali was justified in his protest against the Vietnam War

Ellen wins a copy of *Vikings: Raids, Culture, Legacy* by Roderick Dale and Marjolein Stern (£20, Andre Deutsch). This illustrated book examines the origins, explorations and settlements of the Vikings and their impact on the world.



Really enjoyed your Lionheart feature (July 2016). My favourite period of history and my favourite King. Been waiting for this since the first issue. Looking forward to more medieval features in the future.  
@aimzta85

### GENIUS IN A BOTTLE?

I have read before that Henry Ford had Thomas Edison's last breath captured in a test tube (History Makers, July 2016), which is now on display at the Henry Ford Museum, but I have also heard that the story has been embellished. One version

even claims that Ford believed that a person's soul leaves their body with their final breath – which would suggest that Ford wanted to capture Edison's soul for eternity in a bottle! If only someone could have bottled Edison's or Ford's ingenuity!

**Michael Stokes,**  
Dublin

### PHOTO SYNTHESIS

I just read the August 2016 issue and I'm amazed at how much thought and attention goes into each issue of *History Revealed*. I enjoyed reading the articles on the Great Stink (Extraordinary Tale), the modern Olympics and accidental discoveries (Top 10) – they were all fascinating and

entertaining. 'Ali's Greatest Fight' was a brilliant read, with great photo choices that have made it into the final article to celebrate Muhammad Ali's life as a fighter, both in and out of the ring. They capture his unorthodox ring style, witty talk before, during and after the fights – simply brilliant. But what topped the issue for me was Margaret Bourke-White (In Pictures). The photos were breathtaking, and it goes to show what great lengths she must have endured to be able to capture these amazing snapshots for us all to enjoy. What a courageous and determined photographer – simply amazing!

For future articles, I would love to read something on the mysteries of the Ancient World or women in the workplace during World War II.

Keep up the great work, can't wait for the next instalment of *History Revealed*.

**Jason Lee,**  
via email



### FAVES

Recently readers have enjoyed features on Thomas Edison and photographer Margaret Bourke-White





## SLIM PICKINGS

Mark Harrison would like to see an entire feature dedicated to General William Slim... watch this space, Mark

## GENERAL ENQUIRY

I read with great interest your feature on the Battles of Imphal and Kohima (Battlefield, August 2016). It's not an area of World War II that I know very well – and I don't think I'm alone in that, hence the name 'Forgotten Army' – so it was fascinating to read about this key conflict. It's hard to picture a tennis court becoming a strategic battlefield!

Since reading your feature, I've looked more into the life and military career of General William Slim (who took command of the Forgotten Army) and I think he deserves a lot more attention. He turned a risible and disastrous situation into the most unlikely of victories, transforming a humiliated and demoralised army into a well-oiled machine. Maybe Slim can have his own feature in the magazine?

Joseph Marshall  
via email

**f** Here's a question for a future issue: Why did the Romans speak Latin rather than, say, Roman? Where did the name Latin come from?  
David Kveragas

## ROMAN UMPIRE

Muhammad Ali, Alfred the Great, the modern Olympics, amazing photographs from Margaret Bourke-White – I'm enjoying the latest issue (August 2016) but I did notice a couple of slip-ups in the Julius Caesar article. Firstly, the soothsayer warned Caesar of the "Ideas of March"! Also, on the cast of characters on page 31, Calpurnia looks very manly.

Mark Harrison  
via email

## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 31 are:  
**C J Deacy**, Cheshire  
**B P Whitlock**, Northamptonshire  
**J C Perks**, Cambridgeshire  
Congratulations! You've each won a *Dad's Army* goody bag, which includes a copy of the film on DVD, a special edition mug, badges and ration book. For those of you who missed out, why not give this month's crossword a go? Simply turn to page 96.

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**IMMEDIATE MEDIA**





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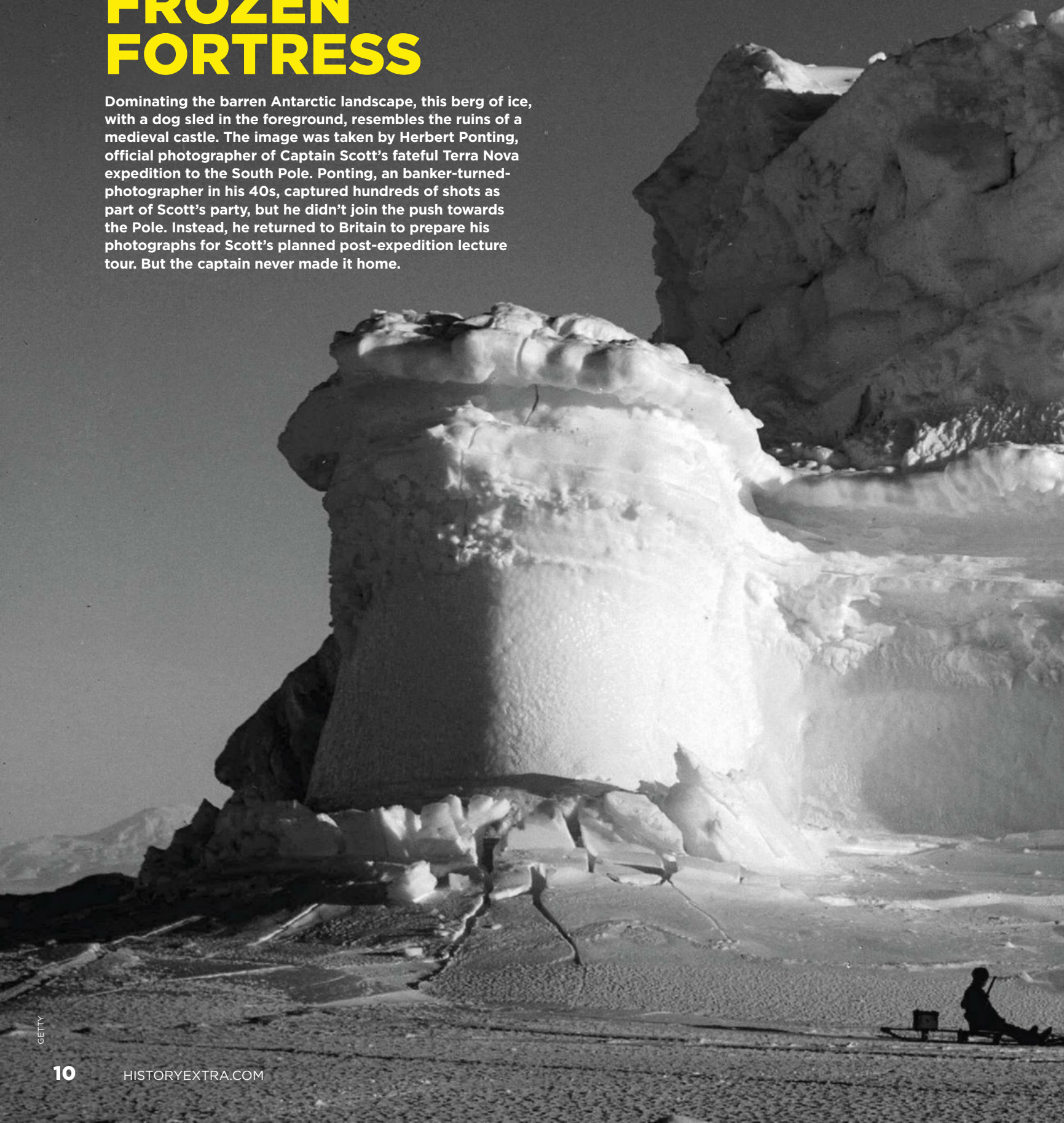
# TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

SNAPSHOT

## 1911 FROZEN FORTRESS

Dominating the barren Antarctic landscape, this berg of ice, with a dog sled in the foreground, resembles the ruins of a medieval castle. The image was taken by Herbert Ponting, official photographer of Captain Scott's fateful Terra Nova expedition to the South Pole. Ponting, an banker-turned-photographer in his 40s, captured hundreds of shots as part of Scott's party, but he didn't join the push towards the Pole. Instead, he returned to Britain to prepare his photographs for Scott's planned post-expedition lecture tour. But the captain never made it home.







**TIME CAPSULE**  
**SEPTEMBER**



A black and white aerial photograph showing a massive military operation. Numerous transport planes are visible in formation, dropping hundreds of parachutes that create a dense pattern of dark spots across the sky. The scene captures the scale of the airborne assault during Operation Market Garden.

**SNAPSHOT**

# 1944 'CHUTES OF RECOVERY?

The planes and parachutes of the First Allied Airborne Army fill the skies above the Netherlands as Operation Market Garden gets under way in September 1944. The week-long operation, overseen by Field Marshal Montgomery, is an ambitious attempt to surround Germany's industrial heartland in the Ruhr, using a pincer movement of troops. The mission, however, ultimately fails. At the Dutch city of Arnhem near the German border, the Allies are unsuccessful in their bid to bridge the Rhine, having encountered sturdy German resistance.



**SNAPSHOT**

# 1934 NUMBERS GAME

At Chiswick bus depot in West London, two employees of the newly formed London Passenger Transport Board are busy preparing new number boards for the city's huge fleet of buses. The pair are going to need to work fast. Pictured on 28 September 1934, the numbers are being reallocated in time for the launch, just five days later, of the organisation's new set of capital-wide routes, following its acquisition of several independent bus operators.

LEYT  
HOE ST  
NORTH  
EDMON  
BOWES  
LEA BDG  
BALL  
ESSEX  
FARRINGD  
WATER  
**PRI**

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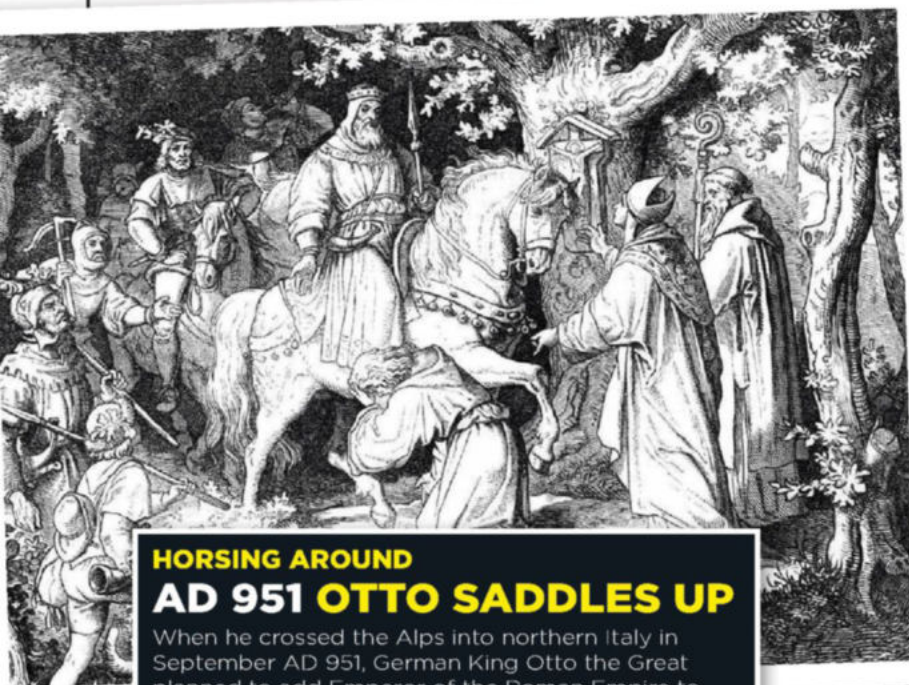


## “I READ THE NEWS TODAY...”

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **September**

### FACE VALUE

Poster designer Thomas Nast was also responsible for popularising the modern image of Santa Claus we still hold today.



### HORSING AROUND

#### AD 951 OTTO SADDLES UP

When he crossed the Alps into northern Italy in September AD 951, German King Otto the Great planned to add Emperor of the Roman Empire to his list of job titles. His success was partly due to the quality of his horses, which in turn was due to the **industrial-sized breeding centre** he set up in what is now Stuttgart – or ‘stud farm’. A **black stallion** remains Stuttgart’s symbol, as well as appearing on the badge of Porsche, founded in the city in 1931.

### MEAT AND GREET

#### 1813 THE REAL UNCLE SAM

Samuel Wilson, a meat-packer from Troy, New York, was the unwitting source of the epithet ‘Uncle Sam’. When he won the contract to supply beef to American troops in the 1812 war against the British, he **stamped his barrels with ‘US’**. Soon the troops began referring to his products as ‘Uncle Sam’s’ – and before long, its meaning expanded to refer to the whole US governmental machine. Although Wilson did indeed have silver hair, the Uncle Sam who would **later appear on army recruitment posters** was developed by the cartoonist Thomas Nast.



### FINGERPRINT FIRST

#### 1902 TO CATCH A THIEF

Burglar Harry Jackson got seven years when wily Met Police sergeant Charles Stockley Collins thought to **compare photos of a thumbprint** left by the miscreant on a **freshly painted window sill** with prints held in the Met’s files. He became the first man in Britain to be convicted by fingerprint analysis.

### ON THE CARDS

#### 1889 GAME CHANGER

You may think Nintendo went into business when computer games appeared in the 1970s. In fact, they’d been around for **almost a century before Donkey Kong** came along. Founded on 23 September 1889, **they produced playing cards**, particularly a game called *Hanafuda*, and made forays into instant rice, taxi cabs and, er, ‘love hotels’ before moving into electronic gaming.



### SCREEN IDOL

#### 1927 REMOTE CONTROLLER

While Scot John Logie Baird demonstrated the first mechanical television in 1926, it was 21-year-old Philo Farnsworth who achieved the **first all-electronic TV transmission** just a year later. No mirrors or spinning discs for this Mormon from small-town Utah – his fully electronic image dissector tube was a huge step towards today’s TV tech.



## PILLAR TO POST 1687 BLAST FROM THE PAST

It isn't just the passage of time that's degraded the Parthenon in Athens. In September 1687, when **Ottoman soldiers defended themselves** there against forces from Austria, Poland, Venice and the Pope, a mortar scored a direct hit on the Turks' ammunition stores and **caused a massive explosion**. The ensuing two-day fire reduced the former temple to the skeletal shell we see today.

# BANG



## "...OH BOY"

**September** events that changed the world

**7 SEPTEMBER 1533**

**THE FUTURE ELIZABETH I IS BORN**

Princess Elizabeth Tudor is born at Greenwich Palace to Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She is not the male heir he was expecting.

**14 SEPTEMBER 1752**

**RED LETTER DAY**

Britain adopts the Gregorian calendar, dropping a dozen days. The previous day was 2 September.

**23 SEPTEMBER 1896**

**LONG TO REIGN OVER US**

After 59 years and 97 days, Queen Victoria becomes the longest-serving monarch in British history to date, eclipsing the record of her grandfather George III.

**14 SEPTEMBER 1901**

**DEATH OF A PRESIDENT**

Having been shot by an assassin eight days earlier, US President William McKinley dies after his wounds become gangrenous.

**15 SEPTEMBER 1916**

**TANK WARFARE INTRODUCED**

At the Battle of the Somme in northern France, tanks are deployed for the very first time, on the orders of Allied commander General Douglas Haig.

**13 SEPTEMBER 1993**

**HISTORIC ACCORD SIGNED**

At the White House in Washington DC, representatives of both Palestine and Israel sign the 'Declaration of Principles', aimed at long-term peace in the Middle East.



## WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON? 1515 THE ETERNAL NEUTRALS

After being given a metaphorical bloody nose by France at the Battle of Marignano, in September 1515, the Swiss Confederacy **negotiated an "eternal peace"** with its French neighbours – a principle that went on to loosely apply to all dealings with the rest of the world. The country has **barely engaged in warfare since** and remains a byword for neutrality.



Despite his breakthrough, Farnsworth never became a spectacularly wealthy man

## AND FINALLY...

In September 1980, tame **grizzly bear Hercules**, missing for 24 days on Benbecula, Outer Hebrides, is **spotted swimming in the sea**. He's recaptured and goes on to appear in the James Bond film *Octopussy*.



**WEATHER:**  
Sunny spells.  
Lighting-up times  
8 p.m. to 5.57 a.m.  
Details—Back Page.

# Evening Standard

47,218

London: Thursday September 9 1976

6p

**CITY PRICES**

# MAO IS DEAD

## MAO DOWN

Despite leading his country into widespread **chaos and civil unrest**, Mao Zedong maintained a **fanatical following** all across China.



CHAIRMAN MAO—traffic slowed to a trickle as the news came through.

Standard Foreign News Desk

**CHAIRMAN** Mao Tse-tung, revered leader of the Chinese Communist Party, died today. He was 82. Peking Radio made the announcement.

The message, also issued by the China News Agency said: "Mao Tse-tung passed away at 00.10 hours (10 past five London time yesterday on September 9 in Peking because of the worsening of his illness and despite all treatment, although meticulous medical care was given him in every way after he fell ill."

His death raises the problem of who will succeed the only man to head the People's Republic since its founding on October 1, 1949.

No known advance arrangements had been made. Apparently the next man in line would be Premier Hua Kuo-eng, named to both the premiership and as first vice-chairman of the Communist Party only five months ago.

The announcement of Mao's death was addressed to "the whole party, the whole Army and people of all nationalities throughout the country."

## The people listen

It was from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the standing committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China and the military commission of the General Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The announcement on Radio Peking was preceded by a five-minute warning that an important declaration would be made. orkers huddled cross-legged on the ground around loudspeakers and radio sets.

It had been known for some time that the leader of the 750 million mainland Chinese was approaching the end of his remarkable life.

Meetings with visiting statesmen had been cut to between 15 and 20 minutes. Official photographs showed him seated, his head resting back against the top of his chair.

The last foreign leader to see him was Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He told reporters after their meeting on May 29 that Mao Cont. Back Page, Col. 5

## Patriot and peasant

Obituary: News on camera—Page 3

## Sea crisis: No. 10 talk

Standard Reporters

THE CABINET met today in an atmosphere of crisis to consider the economic peril which looms behind the seamen's decision to strike from Saturday midnight.

Mr Callaghan was preparing to delay or cancel his visit to Canada tomorrow if the strike threat has not been lifted.

MPs were expecting to be recalled if the seamen blunder into a confrontation with the Government, TUC and the nation in which the stakes are little less than Britain's economic survival.

While Ministers, for the moment, are hoping desperately that the TUC, in emergency session at Brighton, will be able to bring the seamen into line and get the strike called off, contingency plans to counter the threat are being brought to readiness.

## Emergency

The Prime Minister's talks with Employment Secretary Anthony Booth and the Chancellor of the Exchequer last night and his contact with Mr Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary, in Oxford indicated that the possibility of declaring a state of emergency was under early consideration.

Such powers can be taken while Parliament is in recess but MPs would undoubtedly be recalled within a few days to debate it if the move becomes necessary.

A state of emergency enables Ministers, among other things, to control prices, use transport at will to ensure distribution of food and fuel and generally ensure that the basic necessities of life can be maintained.

The powers were used Cont. Back Page, Col. 2

## INSIDE YOUR STANDARD 'Frivolous Whitehall'—Marsh

Back Page

## Iron mind of Raquel Welch



Page 7

## Yard on trail of forgers

Back Page

## Wembley ticket chaos hits fans

Back Page

## Mother of two murdered

Back Page

● TV and radio—2, Londoner's Diary—12, Peter Paterson—13, Civil Waugh; Reviews; Recipe—19, Films, Letters—20, 21, Richard Cork 22, Leisure—23, Consumer Counsel—25, Property—28, Brian Inglis—21.

Entertainment 16

**ALL OVER LONDON NOW!**  
The most devastating detective story of this century.

**REDFORD/HOFFMAN**  
"ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN"<sup>AA</sup>

From Warner Bros. A Warner Communications Company. Released by Golden Harvest Distribution.

AND CONTINUING IN THE WEST END AT

**WARNER WEST END 2**  
LOCESTER SQUARE 439 0791

**SCENE**  
LEIC 80 439 4470

## YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **9 September 1976**, the father of Communist China passed away

# “DO NOT FEAR HARDSHIP AND DO NOT FEAR DEATH” MAO ZEDONG

**T**en minutes after midnight on 9 September 1976, Mao Zedong – the leader of the People’s Republic of China since the revolution of 1949 – passed away. He had suffered from Parkinson’s disease and other ailments so hadn’t been seen in public for more than five years – the last sighting had been a few fleeting glimpses at a May Day fireworks display in 1971.

News of his death wasn’t made public immediately. Instead, the Chinese people were warned to expect an important announcement at 4pm later that day. When the time came, the streets of Peking (now Beijing), and every other city and town across the country, fell silent as people gathered around their transistor radios.

The Peking Radio announcer went straight to the point, without pomp or poetry. “Mao Zedong passed away at 00:10 hours on 9 September because of the worsening of his illness.” Funeral music followed the announcement and, while workers cycled home that evening, *The Internationale* – the signature tune of the socialist world – was piped out through public loudspeakers.

With Mao lying in state in a crystal coffin, the country fell into an eight-day period of mourning and ceremonies. Despite his stated wish to be cremated, Mao’s body had been perfectly preserved and, two months later, work began on the construction of his mausoleum. His body can still be visited today, although there are suggestions that a waxwork lookalike has been placed over the real body. ☉

### A CRYSTAL COFFIN

He was the architect of the Cultural Revolution that killed millions and took China to the brink of collapse, yet Mao is still revered by many across China as a god-like figure. His **body, encased in crystal**, can still be viewed today.



**13 SEPTEMBER 1976**  
The official Chinese news agency photo showing party leaders standing vigil



### THE MOURNING LINE

Some 300 miles outside of Beijing in Hui County, Henan Province, local people walk in line to attend a **memorial to Chairman Mao**, as part of the eight-day period of mourning and ceremonies.

## 1976 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

**17 SEPTEMBER** The Space Shuttle ‘Enterprise’ is unveiled at Palmdale, California. The **first orbiter of the Space Shuttle programme**, it’s named after Captain James T Kirk’s craft in *Star Trek*.

**20–21 SEPTEMBER** The **100 Club Punk Festival** is held on London’s Oxford Street. The now-legendary event includes performances from the Sex Pistols, the Clash, the Damned and Buzzcocks.

**24 SEPTEMBER** Kidnapped heiress turned terrorist, Patty Hearst, gets **seven years without parole** for her part in a 1974 bank robbery – later commuted to 22 months by President Jimmy Carter.

# GRAPHIC HISTORY

Suffrage success around the world

## 1893 NZ GIVES WOMEN THE VOTE

In **September 1893**, New Zealand became the first country to grant universal suffrage. This map shows when the rest of the world followed suit

### MAP KEY

Before 1900	1960-1979
1900-1919	1980-1999
1920-1939	After 2000
1940-1959	2010 onwards

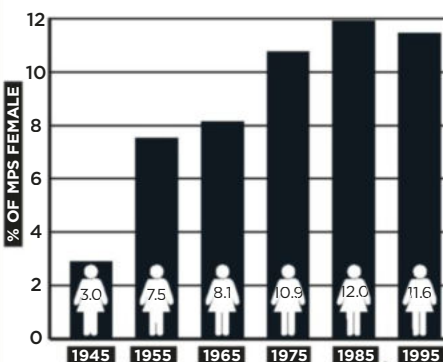
### DIVIDED STATES OF AMERICA



In 1919, the USA's 19th Amendment was passed, granting all women the vote. However, 12 states opposed it and 64 years went by before all of them ratified it. Mississippi was the last to do so, in 1984.

### POST-WAR PROGRESS

After World War II, the number of female MPs around the world increased by four times before the end of the millennium



THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT IN THE 20TH CENTURY CAME IN 1988, WHEN 14.8% OF MPS AROUND THE GLOBE WERE FEMALE

### BEHIND THE CONTINENT



In Portugal, though a limited number of women won the vote in 1931, it wasn't until 1976 that all women, **regardless of education or marital status**, were granted the right.

**22.7%**

As of 1 June 2016, the global percentage of MPs that are women is 22.7%. The Nordic countries have the highest proportion of female MPs, with 41.1%.



### SECRET SUFFRAGETTE

On the night of the 1911 census, the **militant suffragette** Emily Davison **hid in the House of Commons**, so that she could legitimately give her address as "Crypt of **Westminster Hall**, Westminster".



### PAPAL ANOMALY

Vatican City is the only country in Europe in which women don't have the vote, as it is **cardinals who choose the pope** and, as yet, the Catholic Church has no female cardinals.

## A HEAD OF HER TIME

On 2 April 1870, Victoria Woodhull declared her intention to **run for president**, some 50 years before US women were granted the vote.



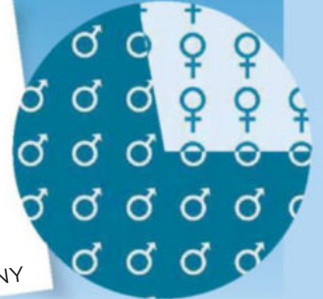
# 1960

Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka (Ceylon at the time) becomes the world's first female elected head of government.

## THE TOP JOBS

Of the ten largest economies in the world, three are governed by female heads of state or parliament (one of these three, President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, is currently suspended on corruption charges).

**MALE:**  
CANADA  
USA  
CHINA  
JAPAN  
FRANCE  
ITALY  
INDIA  
**FEMALE:**  
UK  
BRAZIL  
GERMANY



# 1979

Margaret Thatcher is elected Britain's first female prime minister. Elocution lessons helped her to sound more 'masculine'.



## MINORITY RULES

A minority of women in South Africa were enfranchised in 1930, when white women won the right. But it wasn't until the **abolition of apartheid in 1994** that the remaining majority of women could join them at the polls.



VOTE

# 130,000

The number of women who registered to vote in the 2015 municipal elections in Saudi Arabia (compared to 1.35 million men). It was only the **third time Saudis of either gender had gone to the polls**, and the first time for women. **Twenty were elected to municipal councils.**



1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

## NEW ZEALAND

Despite fears that 'delicate' ladies would be jostled by 'boorish' men, the 1893 election was the 'most orderly' ever held.



## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Hollywood star fills up his sports car ready for a day at the races

# 1955 JAMES DEAN KILLED IN CAR SMASH

*The tragic fate of the iconic screen idol offered a sobering warning to the 'live fast, die young' generation*

**L**ate September, on a bright Friday afternoon, a handsome young man fills up the tank of his pride and joy – a silver Porsche 550 Spyder. But this isn't just any young man. For here, at the Casa de Petrol gas station on Ventura Boulevard in the Los Angeles suburb of Sherman Oaks, it's the film star James Dean, who has made a stop-off for fuel.

Dean – star of *East Of Eden* and *Rebel Without A Cause* – is aged 24 and happy-go-lucky. As owner of a series of high-performance sports cars, he's also a keen car racer and, indeed, is en route to competing in a weekend race meeting in Salinas, 290 miles away. Behind the silver sports car on the gas-station forecourt is a more sedate station-wagon, one that's towing the open trailer the Spyder would be transported on. But Dean, with few miles behind the wheel of the Spyder that he bought just nine days earlier, has elected to drive it up to Salinas. It would prove a fatal decision.

### FAST AND FURIOUS

What happened a few hours later not only rocked the entertainment world, but trapped Dean's image in amber. On a particularly fast and straight

stretch of Route 466, halfway between Los Angeles and Salinas, the Spyder – travelling at a reported 85mph – collided head-on with a car turning across Dean's carriageway.

The impact with the much heavier Ford Sedan sent the Spyder cartwheeling. While Dean's passenger (his German mechanic Rolf Wütherich) was thrown clear, and the driver of the other vehicle walked away with minor injuries, the actor was less fortunate. With a broken neck and numerous internal injuries, there was no saving him. James Dean was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital a little more than half an hour later.

### INEVITABLE DEMISE

Dean's need for speed (he had already earned himself a speeding ticket earlier that afternoon) may have invited an inevitable demise. Just seven days earlier, he had been showing off his new purchase to fellow actor Alec Guinness. "The sports car looked sinister to me," the Englishman later wrote. "I heard myself saying, in a voice I could hardly recognise as my own: 'Please never get in it. If you get in that car, you will be found dead in it by this time next week.'" 🚫

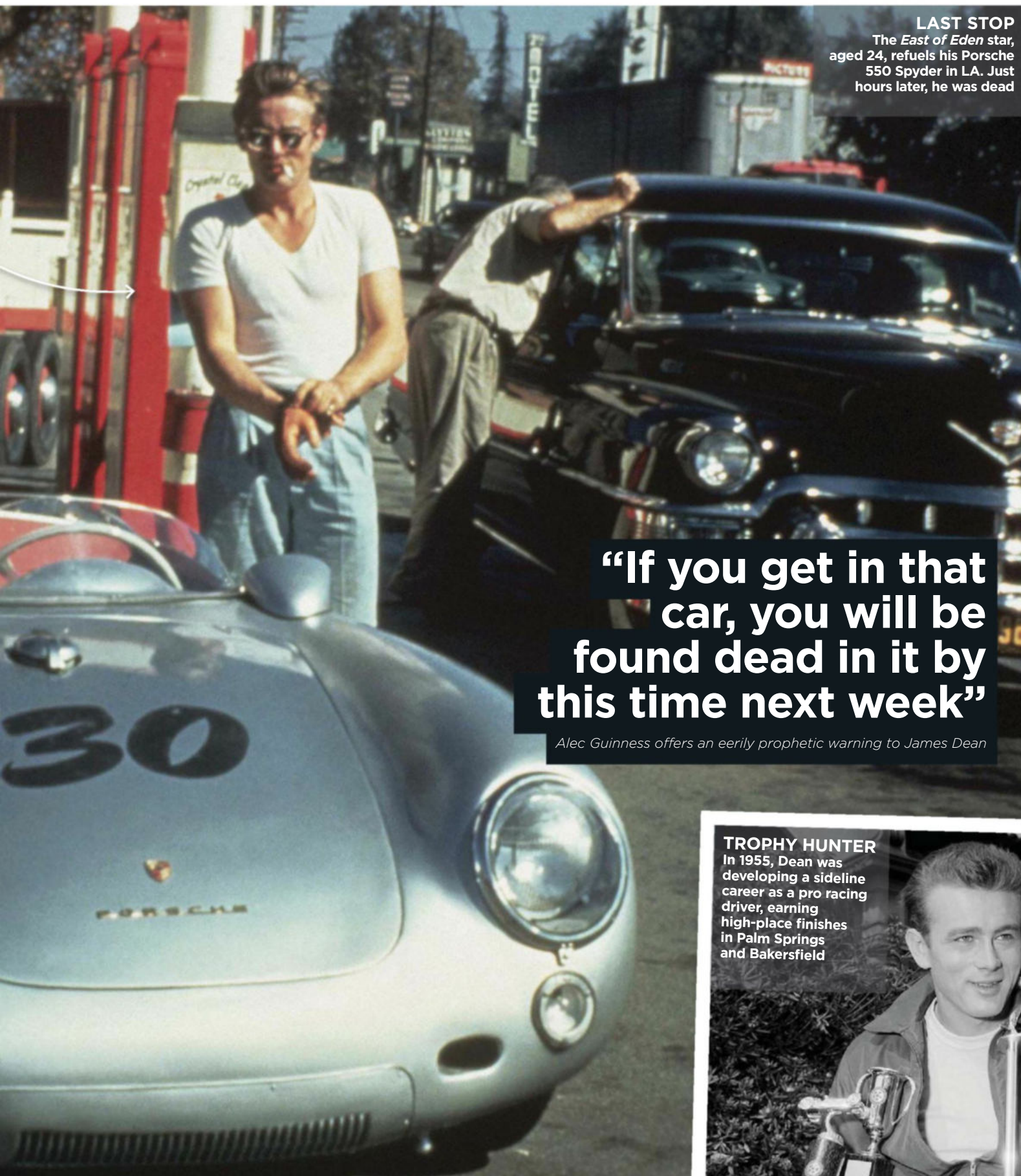
### NEED FOR SPEED

Dean owned a string of fast cars and motorcycles. Ironically, just weeks before his death, he took time out from filming *Giant* to appear in a film **warning young motorists** about the dangers of speed.



### RACE PEDIGREE

Ninety 550 Spyders were produced between 1953 and 1956. The car had a **top speed of 140mph** and quickly became established as the cornerstone of Porsche's racing success.



#### LAST STOP

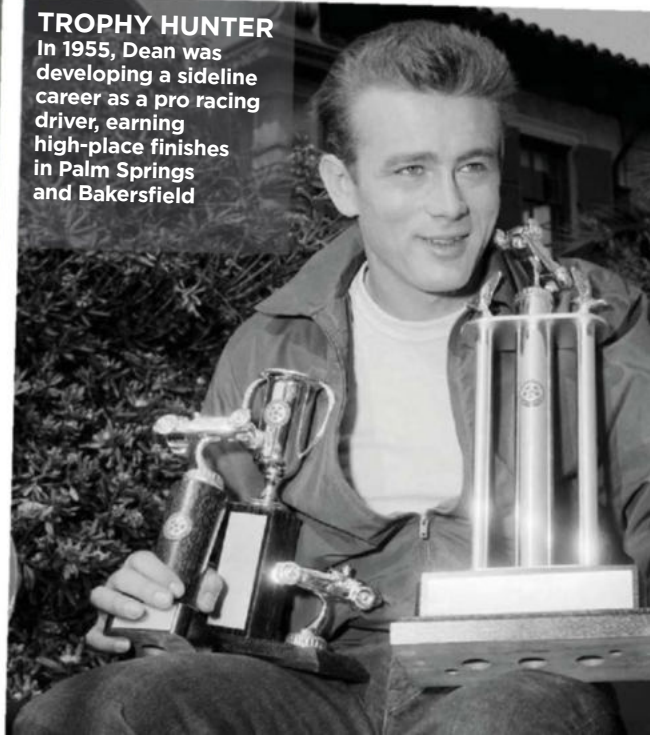
The *East of Eden* star, aged 24, refuels his Porsche 550 Spyder in L.A. Just hours later, he was dead

**“If you get in that car, you will be found dead in it by this time next week”**

*Alec Guinness offers an eerily prophetic warning to James Dean*

#### TROPHY HUNTER

In 1955, Dean was developing a sideline career as a pro racing driver, earning high-place finishes in Palm Springs and Bakersfield





**WAR HOARSE**

Thurel's military exploits included stints in the War of the Polish Succession, the Seven Years' War and even, **aged 83**, the campaign in Yorktown, Virginia.

## THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

The French soldier who served his country until the age of 108

# 1787 THE OLDEST SOLDIER IN THE WORLD

*In a life spanning three centuries, Jean Thurel fought in numerous wars, survived serious injury and served under no less than three kings and an emperor*

**T**he year was 1787, and a veteran soldier made his way to the gleaming opulence of the Palace of Versailles. Less than five years before a wave of republicanism washed the monarchy from power and turned France upside down, Louis XVI performed an unusual act.

As the ageing infantryman stood before him, ready to be decorated for his service to the country, the King gave him the choice of which medal he would receive. He could choose the Médallion des Deux Épées, an honour bestowed on veterans with 24 years of regimental loyalty under their belt. Or he could opt for the Ordre Royal et Militaire de Saint-Louis, never before awarded to a soldier from the enlisted ranks.

However modest the man, the fact that he plumped for the former, the first medal to honour ordinary French soldiers, was nonetheless surprising. The decision was even more of an eye-opener as its recipient, Jean Thurel, was already in possession of two other Médallions des Deux Épées. Each had been awarded

after a requisite period of 24 years of service, and here Thurel was now, receiving a third. To any unfamiliar onlooker, there would have seemed to be only one possible explanation, however ludicrous. Surely this man hadn't been serving France's armed forces for almost 72 years? But he had.

### A LIFE'S CALLING

Jean Thurel was destined for a life as a soldier. At 18, he signed up with the Regiment de Touraine, based in the central French region of the same name. And it was with the very same regiment that Thurel would serve – as a common-or-garden journeyman soldier – until way beyond his investiture at Versailles. As Louis XVI pinned the honour to Thurel's tunic (rather sweetly referring to him as “père”, or father), the older man was a mere 88 years of age. By the time Napoleon Bonaparte presented him with the Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur in 1804, Thurel, still actively serving, was a scarcely believable 106.

That a military life was Thurel's calling was indisputable. Not even

the deaths of three of his brothers at the Battle of Fontenoy in 1747 could shift him from a devotion to duty. It was in his DNA. It was the family business. (Indeed, at one point he served in the same company as his son, who leapfrogged him to assume the rank of corporal.)

Throughout the conflict-heavy 18th century, Thurel Sr saw action at a number of key battles, including the War of the Polish Succession between 1733 and 1738, the War of the Austrian Succession (which broke out a couple of years later) and the Seven Years' War of 1756–63. In 1781, aged 83, Thurel travelled across the Atlantic to line up and fight at Yorktown, a crucial skirmish in the American Revolutionary War. This was a soldier not shirking the frontline or lurking in the shadows.

Thurel's longevity wasn't the result of having risen to become officer material, so keeping

### BADGE OF HONOUR

Thurel received the Légion d'Honneur from Napoleon in 1804, aged 106



**“He was nearly a goner on a couple of occasions. During the Siege of Kehl in 1733, he took the full force of a musket ball in the chest.”**



### LOW PROFILE

Content with life as a simple fusilier, in his 90-year career Thurel repeatedly **passed up the opportunity** for advancement up the ranks.

### NAPOLEON NOD

Napoleon instituted the Légion d'Honneur in May 1802 to recognise gallantry and distinguished service. In Thurel's case he was also awarded a **pension of 1,200 francs**.

**TROOP'S TRIBUTE**  
This grand portrait, which belies his low rank, was commissioned as a gift to Thurel from his regiment



**BATTLE OF MINDEN**  
As a mere 60 year old, Thurel was severely wounded during the Seven Years' War

away from the heat of battle. Throughout those 90-odd years in uniform, he remained happy as an infantryman. Not that, with his rich experience, he wasn't offered promotions. But life among the ordinary men on the battlefield was infinitely more attractive than among the chattering officer class.

And, naturally, avoiding death for so long, and throughout so many battles, requires a generous dose of Lady Luck. Thurel was nearly a goner on a couple of occasions. During the Siege of Kehl in 1733, he took the full force of a musket ball in the chest. Twenty-six years later, at the Battle of Minden in Prussia in 1759, he was slashed multiple times across his face with a sabre.

### FIT FOR THE JOB

Instead of succumbing to infirmity, Thurel stayed fit and defiant of letting the years catch up with him. In 1787, with his regiment ordered to march to the coast, he was offered a seat on a coach making the same journey. He might have been approaching his 90th birthday, yet he politely declined the offer, instead electing to cover the route on foot with his comrades.

Elsewhere in 1787 – the same year Louis XVI paid his respects to the veteran infantryman via the Médallion des Deux Épées – Thurel was to be the recipient of a further accolade, one that

possibly thrilled him more than all those medals. The officers of his regiment were keen to salute an extraordinary life and clubbed together to pay for a formal portrait of Thurel, to be painted by Antoine Vestier, portraitist to the highest folk in the land. The resultant painting elevates this humble soldier to the stature of a general or an admiral – the only indication of his low ranking are the three bright-red Médallion des Deux Épées pinned to his chest (the portrait was later modified in 1804 to include the Légion d'Honneur).

Jean Thurel finally joined the choir invisible in 1807, following a short illness. He was 108. After nine full decades as a soldier, he remained a private throughout, never dropping off the regiment's active duty list. His life spanned three separate centuries, during which time France had witnessed monarchies being overthrown, revolutions exploding, and emperors anointing themselves. But, whatever the regime, the beauty of Jean Thurel, and the nub of his tremendously exciting life, was his unstinting loyalty to his country and its people. After all, he was one of them. 🇫🇷



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you have any suggestions for what our next Extraordinary Tale should be?

email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

# HISTORY

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COVER STORY  
THE GREAT FIRE  
OF LONDON

# THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

How the ferocious blaze of 1666 destroyed the capital

Words: Sandra Lawrence

ILLUSTRATION: © KURT MILLER/SALZMANART.COM, AVG XI



**LONDON'S BURNING**  
What began as a small fire at a bakery spread into a devastating inferno that engulfed the capital



## COVER STORY THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

### CITY IN FLAMES

Old London Bridge, houses and churches blaze as the fire sweeps along the north bank of the Thames



**T**he date was Sunday 2 September 1666, and Samuel Pepys was enjoying a good night's rest. The previous day he'd been to the theatre, avoided someone he didn't like and repaired to Islington. He ate, drank and became "mighty merry", before singing all the way home, writing some letters and falling into bed. Hardly surprising, then, that when his maid called him at three o'clock in the morning to look at a fire

across town, he decided it was far enough away not to worry about and went straight back to sleep.

Pepys wasn't the only one. The Lord Mayor, Sir Thomas Bloodworth, took one look at the blaze, declared "a woman might piss it out," and dived back under the covers. In the days that followed, his weak leadership added fuel to a fire that became one of the greatest catastrophes the city has seen. A spark from a baker's oven grew into an all-consuming monster that lasted

**"Pepys decided the fire was far enough away not to worry about and went back to sleep"**

four days. The immediate aftermath was homelessness and ruin for thousands, but the effects can still be seen today.

"The Great Fire is such a well-known disaster it becomes a myth rather than a story," says Meriel Jeater, curator of the Museum of London's 'Fire! Fire!' exhibition, commemorating the disaster's 350th anniversary this month. Modern archaeology, X-ray and microscopic techniques are still uncovering secrets. "We want to reveal the personal stories, we have actual burnt, melted things and fascinating, less-well-known accounts."

The myth began when someone in Thomas Farynor's Pudding Lane bakery failed to securely damp down the oven before going to bed. By Monday evening, 300 houses had burned – the final toll would top 13,000.

### DIVINE RETRIBUTION?

Mystics, fortune tellers and especially Puritans had predicted doom for the city's modern, sinful ways even before the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. London, led by

### BLAZING SQUAD

**LEFT: The Watch tackles the flames with a 'squirt'**

**BELOW: Every church had rudimentary fire-fighting gear, including leather buckets**

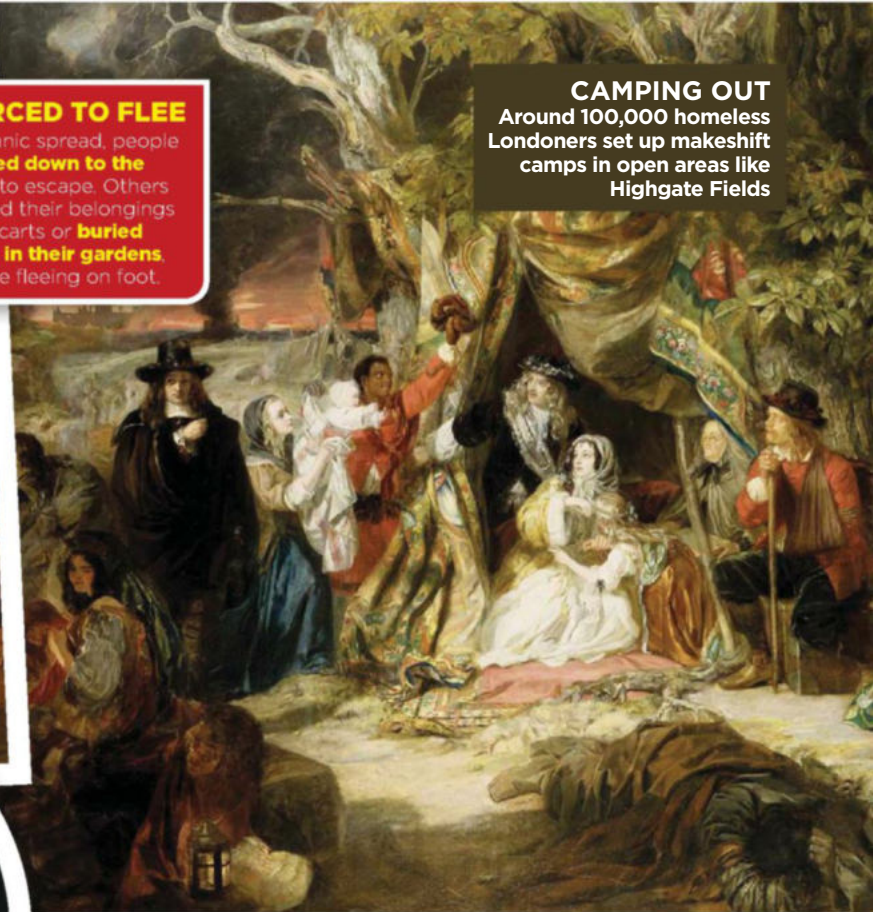




### FORCED TO FLEE

As panic spread, people poured down to the river to escape. Others loaded their belongings onto carts or buried them in their gardens, before fleeing on foot.

**CAMPING OUT**  
Around 100,000 homeless Londoners set up makeshift camps in open areas like Highgate Fields



the decadent Charles II, enjoyed a lavish lifestyle and was, according to the deeply religious, ripe for a tumble. It was, they claimed, already happening. The Great Plague had taken 100,000 lives the previous year and invasion by the Dutch seemed to be only a matter of time.

The '666' number had not gone unnoticed either. In 1597, an anonymous pamphlet, *Babylon is Fallen*, had suggested 1666 would be the Year of the Beast, perhaps even the time of Christ's second coming. Oddly, afterwards, it was commemorated by poet John Dryden as an *annus mirabilis* ('year of wonders').

Restoration London was frivolous and worldly, bustling and cosmopolitan. On narrow, dirty and dark streets, rickety houses were built from wood and thatch. Their protruding upper storeys, 'jetties', almost met at the top. Filth rained onto unwary pedestrians from upstairs windows. Inside, people lit their houses with candles and cooked with open fires. There was hay in the stables, pitch on the roofs, tar in the shipyards and even gunpowder in many homes, as Cromwell's soldiers retained their muskets from the civil wars. Given the city's flammability, doom-mongers' predictions of an apocalyptic inferno could hardly be deemed radical.

We have several eye-witness accounts of the fire. The most famous is that of Pepys, whose access to famous figures

### EYE WITNESS

ABOVE: **Samuel Pepys recorded events, as well as burying his wine and cheese to keep them safe**  
RIGHT: **Restoration of one of the few, rather ineffective, 17th-century fire engines**

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Great Fire of London did not stop the Great Plague, which had already abated. Plague was worst in areas outside the area consumed by the fire, such as Clerkenwell

such as the King, the Duke of York and the Lord Mayor make his version pivotal. Pepys's friend John Evelyn, another diarist, lived in Deptford but came to town to see the kerfuffle. Letters and memoirs from ordinary people provide glimpses of what went on below the surface.

**373**

the number of acres that burned within the city walls

Sir Edward Harley's account mentions Farynor's bakery maid, who, he says, was too scared to climb onto the roof next door with the rest of the household and became the fire's first victim.

Unless in the fire's immediate path, people didn't panic – at first. Strong winds from the east, however, fanned the flames, and disagreement and indecision



allowed things to get out of hand. Postmaster James Hickes was forced to flee from the post office, but not before taking as many letters as he could carry. With no reliable information, rumour and hearsay took over.

Firefighting was the job of the Watch, 'bell-men' who patrolled the streets at night. Every church stored basic equipment – fire hooks (long poles to demolish precarious buildings), ladders, leather buckets, axes and 'squirts' (the 17th-century Super Soaker). The few 'fire engines' were clumsy and the river had no quays, so firefighters had to trundle them to the water as best they could. Several toppled into the Thames.

## “The very few ‘fire engines’ were clumsy. Several toppled into the Thames”

The Museum of London holds an incomplete fire engine from around 1678. As part of the 'Fire! Fire!' project, they commissioned Croford Coachbuilders to rebuild the missing parts. "It wasn't until we put it together again that we could see how it would work," explains Jeater. "Now the wheels are back on we've realised it's really difficult to turn corners."

The default fire-fighting technique was demolition, but faced with that prospect, the Lord Mayor demurred. He may have feared being personally held to account

for the damage, but, whatever his reasons, Bloodworth became a hate figure. Pepys described him as "a silly man".

In one of Pepys's proudest moments, he was called to court to describe the fire to the King and the Duke of York. He advised a troubled Charles that buildings must be pulled down. "The King commanded me to go to my Lord Mayor from him, and command him to spare no houses, but to pull down before the fire every way. The Duke of York bid me tell him that if he would have any more soldiers he shall."

Pepys made his way back, noting "every creature coming away loaden with goods to save, and here and there sickle people carried away in beds".

When he found Bloodworth, the mayor was "like a man spent, with a handkercher about his neck. To the King's message he cried, like a fainting woman, 'Lord! What can I do? I am spent: people will not obey me. I have been pulling down houses; but the fire overtakes us faster than we can do it.'" Bloodworth refused the Duke of York's soldiers and disappeared to "refresh

### PAYING THE PRICE

## Fire judges

Nobody agreed about who should pay for rebuilding. Many landlords required tenants to continue paying for homes that didn't exist anymore – some even claimed tenants should rebuild their homes at their own expense. The Fire of London Disputes Act declared: "Every one concerned should beare a proportionable share of the losse according to their severall Interests," but admitted that "wherein in respect of the multitude of cases varying in their circumstances, noe certaine generall rule can be prescribed." To oversee disputes at the Fire Court, 22 men were recruited as fire judges. Speed was imperative, so they usually pronounced judgement within a day of hearing cases. They gave up their time free of charge and heard hundreds of cases. Between 1671-74, portraits of each judge were painted as a thank you.



**FIRE POWER**  
Sir Matthew Hale, one of the 22 judges who ruled on disputes between landlords and tenants

### ROYAL TREATMENT

King Charles II was commended for his hands-on approach to fighting the Great Fire



"We have appointed Wencelaus Hollar and Francis Sandford to take an exact plan and survey of our city of London with the suburbs adjoining as the same now stands after the sad calamity of the late fire with a particular depiction of the ruins thereof".

King Charles II, 10 September 1666

#### 1 PUDDING LANE

If the 62-metre-high Monument at the end of this tiny lane were to topple in the right direction it would fell Thomas Farynor's bakery, where all the trouble started on 2 September.

#### 2 ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The old cathedral's spire and roof ran "like lava" with molten lead. The fire eventually became so hot it even melted the bells, and caused stones to explode out of the building.

#### 3 GUILDHALL YARD

The Guildhall's roof was damaged in the Great Fire, but it came off better than much of the rest of the city. The Guildhall suffered similar damage from Luftwaffe air raids during World War II.

*The Names of all the Churches*

1. Cathedral of St. Paul	13. St. Mary Aldermanbury
2. St. Peter Church	14. St. Michael's
3. St. Andrew's	15. St. Lawrence
4. St. James Church	16. St. Martin's
5. St. Dunstons	17. St. Andrew's
6. St. Martin's	18. St. Dunstons
7. St. Andrew's	19. St. Dunstons
8. St. Dunstons	20. St. Dunstons
9. St. Dunstons	21. St. Dunstons
10. St. Dunstons	22. St. Dunstons
11. St. Dunstons	23. St. Dunstons
12. St. Dunstons	24. St. Dunstons

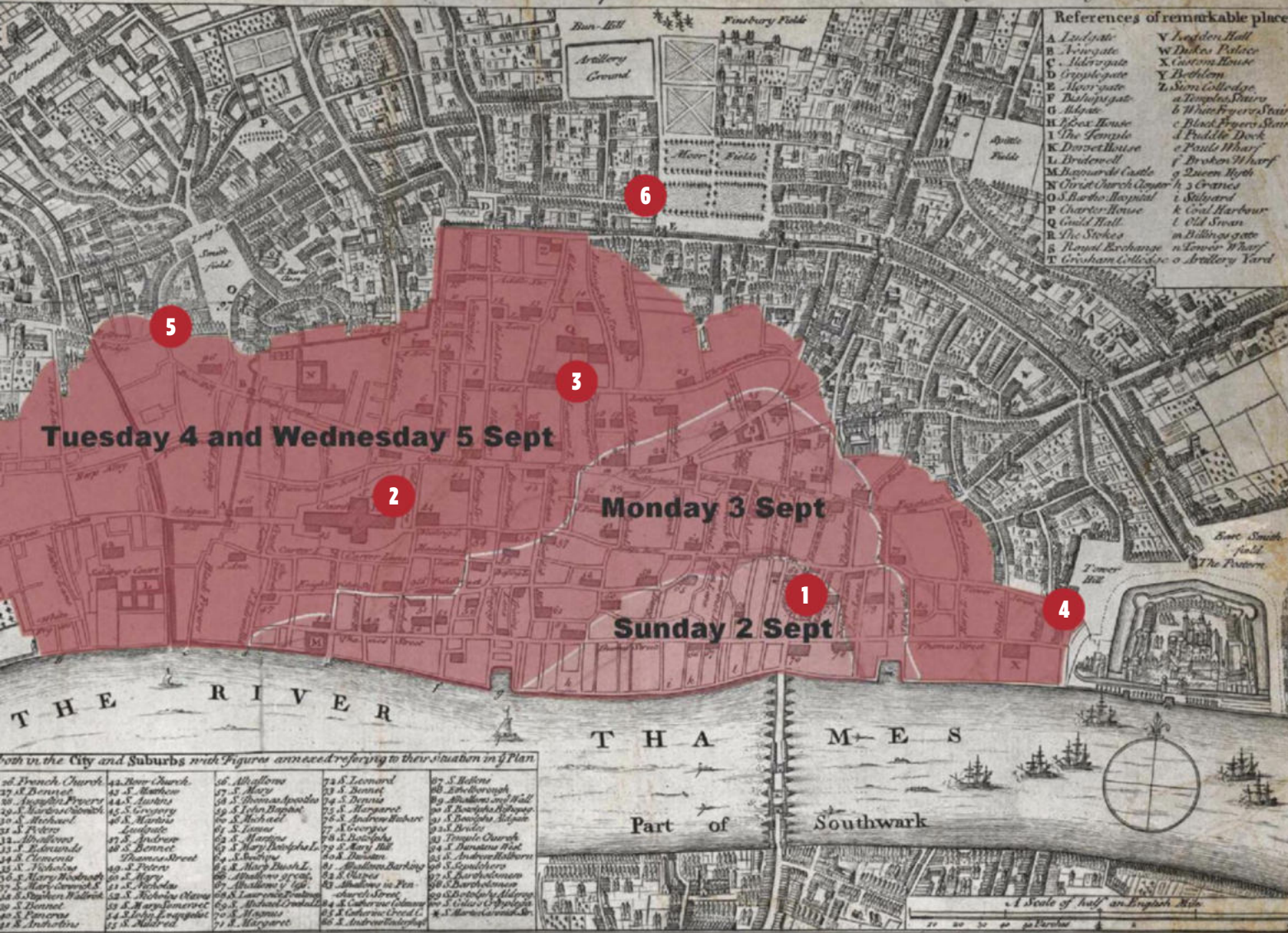
**89**

The number of churches burnt, as well as 13,200 houses

himself, having been up all night". Disgusted, Pepys reflected he appeared to be "a very weak man".

People moved valuables to nearby 'safety', then again, and again as the flames licked closer. "I did remove my money and iron chests into my cellar, as thinking that the safest place," recounts Pepys. "And got my bags of gold into my office, ready to carry away, and my chief papers of accounts." It wasn't long before he would bury his wine and

**CITY and LIBERTIES of LONDON** after the *Dreadful Conflagration* in the Year 1666.  
Blank Part *whereof* represents the Ruins and Extent of the Fire; & the Perspective that left Standing.



**Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 Sept**

**Monday 3 Sept**

**Sunday 2 Sept**

**4 ALL HALLOWS-BY-THE-TOWER**

Samuel Pepys climbed the tower to watch the fire. The church was narrowly spared by the flames due to Admiral William Penn, who ordered the surrounding buildings be ripped down to create firebreaks.

**5 GOLDEN BOY, COCK LANE**

A gilded wooden, “prodigiously fat” figure (which seems mildly tubby to modern eyes) was erected over a pub where the fire stopped to warn of the sin of gluttony. The Golden Boy is still there, on a modern building.

**6 MOORFIELDS**

As one of the open areas, Moorfields became a refugee camp for displaced Londoners. It still hadn’t completely dispersed eight years later.

parmesan cheese, for safekeeping. The diarist was helped by the wife of a colleague, Sir William Batten, when, at 4am on Monday 3 September, she sent a cart to carry his things to the safety of a house in Bethnal Green. Pepys didn’t like the Battens – and is regularly rude about them in his diary – but for once he was grateful. Most Londoners weren’t so lucky.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

In 1986, 320 years after the fire, the Worshipful Company of Bakers gathered in Pudding Lane to present a scroll to the mayor, officially acknowledging the damage caused by one of their number

The city streamed with people trying to get out, gridlocked by narrow streets and bottlenecked by the eight gates in the old Roman wall. The river jammed with boats. “Here we saw the Thames covered with goods floating, all the barges & boates laden with what some had time & courage to save, as on the other, the Carts &c. carrying out to the fields, which for many miles were strewn with moveables of all sorts, & Tents erecting to shelter both people &

what goods they could get away,” writes John Evelyn who, on hearing the news, couldn’t resist taking his wife and son to Southwark to watch the carnage from the South Bank.

Pepys notes one-in-three boats boasted a pair of virginals (a keyboard instrument) and most of the saved goods were, unsurprisingly, luxuries. One witness, Robert Flatman, writing to his lawyer brother, tells him his chambers are down – but his books are safe. The



## COVER STORY THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

◀ Museum of London holds a half-finished embroidery and set of bed-hangings said to have been saved from the flames.

Most burned. Excavations have fetched up crusty, rusted lumps which, under X-ray, reveal themselves as a padlock and several keys, fused together in London's furnace. A large iron lump turned out to be a heavy-duty waffle iron, just like ones used today. Archaeologists found, in a building two doors from Farynor's bakery, melted hooks and eyes, as we might use on clothes, along with heat-twisted window glass and partly-melted ceramic floor tiles. "We understand it must have been at least 1,200 degrees to do that," says Jeater.

However chaotic the flow out of town, it was almost as busy going towards the blaze. With carts and boats suddenly at a premium, it didn't take long for country folk to realise they could charge extortionate rates to desperate refugees. The fire



brought out the worst in some. Fourteen-year-old schoolboy William Taswell, who roamed the ruins, describes his father being robbed by people pretending to help, and mobs attacking foreigners, who were increasingly blamed for the disaster.

But while the Lord Mayor dragged his heels, first-hand reports describe King Charles up to his ankles in water helping to fight the flames. Londoners were impressed at the King's "labouring in person" and if, to modern ears, his later declaration that no one had lost more than himself doesn't sound too diplomatic, they knew what he meant.

### FIRE AND BRIMSTONE

The conflagration raged on, encouraging Evelyn to join a group of firefighters near Fetter Lane. "The

### DID YOU KNOW?

Thatched roofs were one headache firefighters didn't have as they had been banned since an earlier fire in 1212. The restrictions are still in place – a special permit was needed when Shakespeare's Globe was rebuilt in 1997

stones of Pauls flew like granados, the Lead mealting down the streetes in a streame, & the very pavements of them glowing with a fiery rednesse, so as nor horse nor man was able to tread on them," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Pepys, who

had initially taken a boat to watch, before "fire drops" raining from the sky made it too dangerous – had his family's safety in mind. When his wife Elizabeth woke him at 2am with the flames at the bottom of their lane, it was time to get out. "Lord what sad sight it was by moone-light to see, the whole City almost on fire that you might see it plain at Woolwich," he wrote, having taken a boat to the nearby port.

His family safe, Pepys dashed back expecting to find his home consumed, but it wasn't. The wind had changed, causing the flames to switch course.

## FROM THE ASHES Rebuilding London

The ground may have been too hot to walk on, but that didn't stop plans for rebuilding. First off the mark was Christopher Wren (not yet a 'sir') on 11 September, with a handsome peacock-tail grid of boulevards radiating from a central monument. He was followed by John Evelyn with a similar structure, containing an elegant kite-design at its centre. There were more radical suggestions, such as the severe, box-like grid of identical squares by Richard Newcourt, or retired army officer Valentine Knight's terrifying ladder-fest of tiny streets.

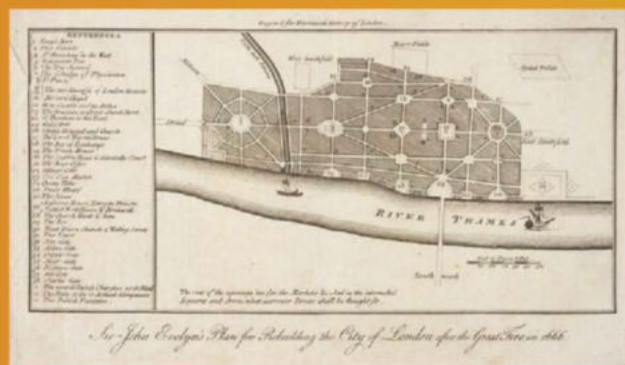
The plans received varying levels of excitement by Charles II, but none found favour with Londoners. No landowner was prepared to see his few square feet consumed into a giant communal grid. So the medieval criss-cross of alleyways and courtyards was rebuilt, albeit with wider streets and one new road. Strict building regulations dictated construction. Sensible, straight-sided houses were to be built in brick and stone only, with no overhanging jetties. There should be guttering with pipes,

not spouts, and the Thames was to have proper quays, accessible by fire engines. Smoke-producing and other dangerous industries were to be sited together, a plan that pleased Evelyn, who had written *Fumifugium*, one of the first treatise on air pollution in London, in 1661.

Royal surveyor Wren was put in charge of the complex rebuild, working closely with his friend Robert Hooke, the city surveyor (and another polymath, known as an inventor, physicist, astronomer, biologist and artist).

Some structures had survived. The church of St Katherine Cree acted as a canteen for the thousands of labourers building the new city. Its brand-new rose window had been based on one in the old St Paul's and, today, provides an idea as to how the previous cathedral looked. The Guildhall needed a new roof, but was otherwise relatively unscathed. A merchant's house, now the Old Wine Shades in Martin Lane, and one of the city's last half-timbered buildings, 41-42 Cloth Fair also survived both the Great Fire and

Diarist John Evelyn submitted a plan for the new London



World War II. Oddly, there are very few surviving private houses. Lack of good quality materials and poor workmanship ensured most fell down quickly. Wren was very fussy about his materials, ensuring the great public buildings of the time, including St Paul's Cathedral, were built to last.

### BEST-LAID PLANS

ABOVE: Evelyn's radical idea was for Italian-style piazzas and broad avenues  
BELOW: Wren's ambitious scheme was also rejected





## FIRE FINDS

ABOVE: Charred, partially-completed needlework and a singed earthenware floor tile

RIGHT: X-rays reveal two molten lumps to be a padlock, keys, and hooks and eyes, melted in the searing heat

Pepys climbed the church tower (brave, given its clock had burned) “and there saw the saddest sight of desolation that I ever saw; everywhere great fires, oyle-cellars and brimstone and other things burning”. He picked his way through the streets, his “feet ready to burn, walking through the towne among the hot coles”, and picking up a piece of glass as a souvenir “melted and buckled with the heat of the fire like parchment”. He watched “a poor cat taken out of a hole in the chimney, joyning to the wall of the Exchange; with, the hair all burned off the body, and yet alive”. It wasn’t the only time he noted the animals: “The poor pigeons, I perceive, were loth to leave their houses, but hovered

the west of the city, on 5 September, but London was decimated. St Paul’s Cathedral lay in ruins, joined by scores of churches, thousands of homes and the city’s only bridge, itself once covered in shops and dwellings.

People wandered, dazed, through the rubble, looking for their old homes and haunts. Evelyn moved “with extraordinary difficulty, clambring over mountaines of yet smoking rubbish, & frequently mistaking where I was, the ground under my feete so hott, as made me not onely Sweate, but even burnt the soles of my shoes”.

After the fire, the Parish Clerks’ bills of mortality, listing causes of death, were collated, with just six deaths appearing

## “Refugees, who had lost everything overnight, camped in the open air”

about the windows and balconys till they were some of them burned their wings, and fell down.” Then at Moorfields he witnessed human suffering. Refugees, who had lost everything overnight, camped in the open air. He described the “wretches”, remarking how prices had taken a sharp hike during the fire: “two-pence for a plain pennyloaf”.

## A CITY IN RUIN

Probably due to the demolition-policy, the fire stopped at Pye (Pie) Corner on

to have been fire-related. “It’s a mystery as to why more deaths aren’t recorded,” says Jeater. “There must have been more.” The true figure of deaths may never be known.

The small number of deaths, however, meant mass misery. Gigantic encampments of around 100,000 homeless people appeared outside the city walls.

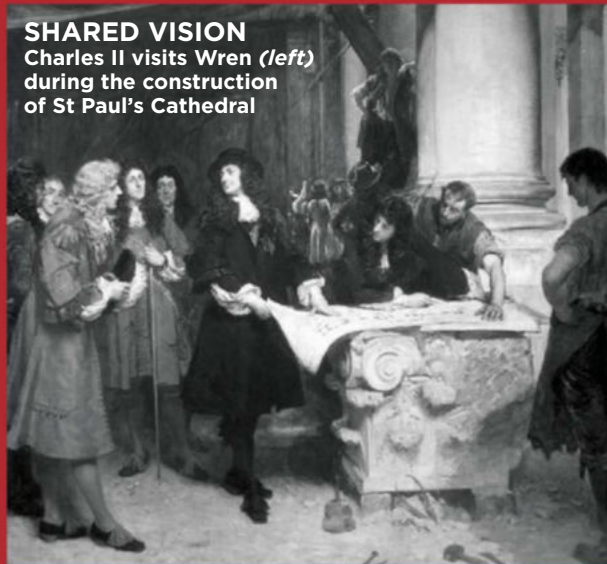
“The fields are the only receptacle which they can find for themselves and their goods,” writes witness Thomas Vincent, “most of the late

11

The number of communities within the city walls that were burnt

## SHARED VISION

Charles II visits Wren (left) during the construction of St Paul’s Cathedral



## MAN WITH THE PLAN

### Christopher Wren

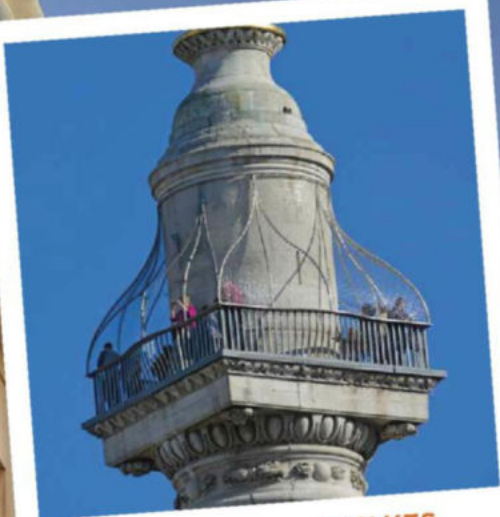
Scientist, mathematician, architect, engineer, Christopher Wren was one of a growing group of 17th-century polymaths. The son of a rector, he had grown to prominence as a professor of astronomy, first at London’s Gresham College, then Oxford. He mingled with the great minds of the day and became a founding member of the Royal Society. When Wren visited Paris, he became inspired by continental baroque design, which, combined with his love of physics and engineering, created his own unique style.

In charge of rebuilding London, Wren grew frustrated that his original plans were rejected, but he oversaw 51 new churches (23 still survive). His pièce de resistance was, of course, St Paul’s Cathedral. It was a building site before the fire, with piecemeal renovation ongoing instead of Wren’s requested wholesale demolition, which had been refused. But during the Great Fire, the wooden scaffolding surrounding the building created a mini-furnace – so Wren got his way after all. He was knighted in 1673 and went on to design many other famous London landmarks, including the royal hospitals at Greenwich and Chelsea.



## DOMESWEET DOME

Underneath the iconic dome of St Paul’s Cathedral, Wren built an inner dome, with a 50cm-thick brick cone in between to provide stability.



### MONUMENTAL MISTAKES

More people have died as a result of falling from the Monument than officially died during the fire it commemorates. The iron safety cage was only added in 1842.

### THE FLAMING ORB

The orb was not the first suggestion for what should sit atop the Monument – it had been proposed to have a giant statue of the King.

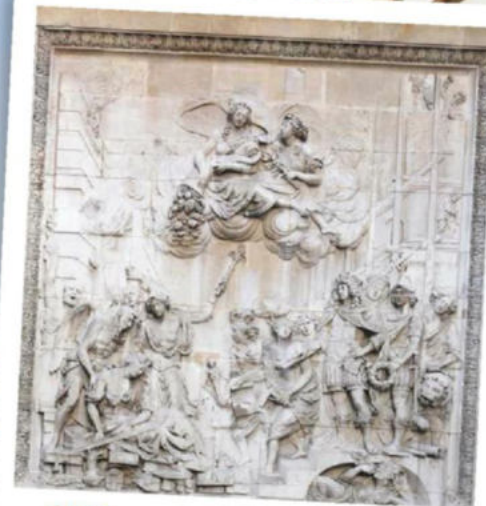


### COLUMN CAPERS

A pony was once taken up the column's centre as a bet, and a sailor abseiled from it in 1732.

## BLAZE TO STAR GAZE The Monument

London demanded a monument to the great disasters, and Christopher Wren was happy to oblige. He – and his friend Robert Hooke – couldn't bear the idea of a useless pillar at a time stone was so precious, so the pair of fanatical astronomers sneakily created a precision-instrument, disguised as a classical column. Opened in 1677, its spiral staircase has an open centre, with a secret door at the gilded urn at the top. This meant that Wren and Hooke could sit in an underground room, with their zenith telescope pointed through the stairs and the open trapdoor towards the heavens. Sadly, the only thing the two scientists couldn't control was the rumble of traffic on the cobbled streets outside, which made their telescope practically unusable.



### CIBBER! FREEZE OR FRIEZE

Caius Gabriel Cibber was in prison at the time he sculpted the west side of the base. He had to be let out each day to carve the stone.

The Monument is located on the junction of Monument Street and Fish Street Hill, EC3R 8AH.

inhabitants of London lie all night in the open air, with no other canopy over them but that of the heavens.”

As for Evelyn, he went north to Islington and Highgate, where “two hundred thousand people of all ranks & degrees, dispersed & laying along by their heapes of what they could save from the Incendium, deploring their losse, & though ready to perish for hunger & destitution, yet not asking one penny for reliefe”.

Relief, asked for or not, was on its way, by order of the King. On 10 October, people across the country went to church, fasted for the day and donated money to destitute Londoners. The new lord mayor, Sir William Bolton, for whom everyone had high hopes after Bloodworth, was in charge of administrating the £12,000 raised. It all ended in scandal, however, when he couldn't account for £1,800 and had to resign. Pepys, no fan of his predecessor, called Bolton's actions “the greatest piece of roguery that they say was ever found in a Lord Mayor”.

London was never be the same again. “I could not sleep till almost two in the morning through thoughts of fire,” Pepys wrote months later, in February 1667. Rebuilding, with fire-resistant bricks and mortar, had begun, but the mental scars would be harder to erase. 🍷

## FIND THE FIRESTARTER

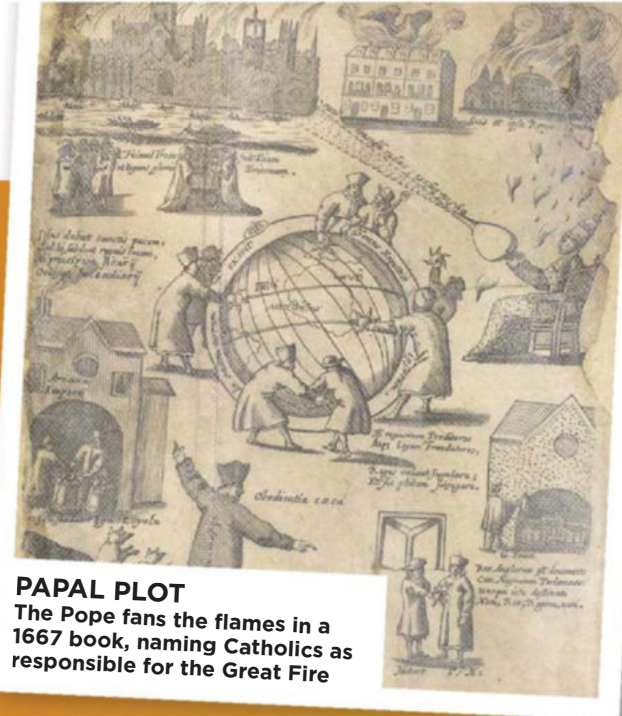
### Who was to blame?

Everyone looked to blame someone for the fire, with Roman Catholics under most suspicion, followed closely by foreigners.

The ‘Fire! Fire!’ exhibition includes a woodcut of the Pope, sitting on his throne in the Vatican with a giant pair of bellows fanning London's flames. The Calendar of State Papers claimed, “the destruction of London by fire is reported to be a hellish contrivance of the French, Hollanders, and fanatic party”. Things got ugly.

Then, out of the blue, French watchmaker Robert Hubert confessed. His story was shaky – he claimed he started the fire in Westminster, despite the flames never even reaching that far, then changed his tale to Pudding Lane, the fire's base. Hubert's mental condition was clearly unstable. The Earl of Clarendon watched his trail and described him as “a poor, distracted wretch”. Even the judge didn't believe him, but he stuck to his story and all they could do was hang him. After his death, it was discovered Hubert hadn't even been in London when the fire started.

Much of the blame culture was so Londoners could avoid looking at



#### PAPAL PLOT

The Pope fans the flames in a 1667 book, naming Catholics as responsible for the Great Fire

themselves. Thomas Vincent, a Puritan preacher, published *God's Terrible Voice in the City by Plague and Fire* in 1667, voicing what many secretly suspected – that God punished them for their sinful ways, not least those of Charles II's extravagant court.

In 1681, a plaque blaming papists for the fire was erected in Pudding Lane. It had to be removed in the 18th century, not as it offended Catholics, but as it caused congestion as people stopped to read it. An inscription on the Monument itself, also blaming the Roman church, wouldn't be removed until the 1830s.

## GET HOOKED

Fuel the fire with this Great Fire of London selection...

### VISIT



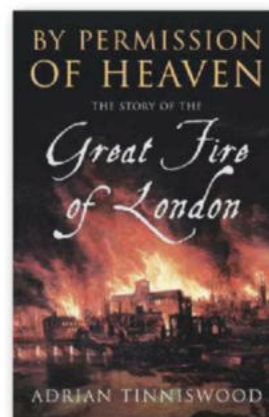
#### FIRE! FIRE!

An exhibition of objects, eye-witness accounts and interactive interpretations at the Museum of London, to 17 April 2017. There are fire-themed tours, lectures, workshops, family activities and festival days. Visit [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk) for info.

#### ALSO SEE

- London Metropolitan Archives hold petitions from people who lost everything in the fire. See [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives)
- To Fetch Out the Fire, an exhibition exploring burn remedies applied in 1666, runs at the Royal College of Physicians, 1 September to 16 December. Visit [www.rcplondon.ac.uk](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk)

### READ



#### BY PERMISSION OF HEAVEN: THE STORY OF THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON (2003)

by Adrian Tinniswood  
Tinniswood re-creates the story of the disaster, starting with the celestial 'signs' before the fire, to the effects of the blaze on ordinary people, the search for scapegoats afterwards and the rebirth of the city.

#### ALSO READ

- *The Rebuilding of London after the Great Fire (1940)* by TF Reddaway. The definitive book on the subject, published at another time of destruction for London



**BOERS AT WAR**

The weaponry and skills of the Boer commandos took the British by surprise in South Africa, but bungling leadership made things much worse at Spion Kop

# Slaughter Hill: Spion Kop

The Kop. It's a word familiar to all football fans, but, **Julian Humphrys** asks, how many of those who have stood on the terraces of grounds like Anfield know their beloved Kops took their name from a steep hill where the British suffered a bloody defeat?

**T**he best chance the 1,700 British soldiers had of surprising their Boer enemy on Spion Kop was to attack in the dead of night, and in silence. It would be an exhausting climb up its steep, boulder-strewn slopes, all the while unsure whether a vicious, close-quarters fight waited at the top. Capturing Spion Kop, however, meant the British could break the Boer defensive line – which had withstood all efforts to lift a siege at nearby Ladysmith – and gain momentum in the Second Boer War. So on the foggy, humid night



## BATTLE BRIEFING

### Who

20,000 British, commanded by  
Generals Buller and Warren  
8,000 Boers, General Botha

### When

23-24 January 1900

### Where

Spion Kop, Natal province,  
South Africa

### Why

British attempt to relieve  
besieged town of Ladysmith

### Result

Boer victory  
British losses: 1,500 killed,  
wounded and captured. Boer  
losses: 340 killed and wounded

British soldiers cross the Tugela River on  
their way to Spion Kop



of 23 January 1900, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Alex Thorneycroft, the khaki-clad British began the climb.

They almost lost the element of surprise when a large, white dog came bounding out of the darkness and joined the scramble up the hill. A bark could give them away, so a few British thought of silencing the dog, permanently, but a bugler managed to walk it back down with an improvised lead. This meant the British nearly reached the summit before being challenged by enemy sentries. The Boers opened fire, yet quickly fled from a bayonet charge.

The tired and sweaty British, now fanning out over Spion Kop, turned their attention to digging in and holding the hill. But ensuing tactical errors, confusion in communication and a lack of leadership meant the Battle of Spion Kop had only just begun.

### BRITISH VS BOER

War had started the previous October. The Boers (Dutch for 'farmers', descendants of original Dutch settlers of southern Africa) resented the British presence, so established their own independent republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free

## RUDE AWAKENING

The Boer War came as a serious shock to the British Army. Until then, most of its enemies in Africa had been armed with little more than stabbing weapons, and all that had been needed for victory was to maintain a tight formation and deliver a series of disciplined volleys, mowing them down at a distance. The Boers provided a different proposition entirely.

In the months before war, they had bought, mainly from Germany, a number of modern

field guns and around 40,000 state-of-the-art Mauser magazine rifles – and they knew how to use them. As most were farmers and hunters, who'd spent their lives in the saddle with a rifle at their side, they weren't only highly mobile but crack shots with a keen eye for cover. This meant the close order tactics the British had employed in Zululand, the Sudan and the North-West Frontier of India proved disastrous when used against the Boers.



## BATTLEFIELD SPION KOP, 1900

State. The discovery of gold in 1886, however, piqued British interest, who hoped to bring the Transvaal under their control. The Boers grew worried about being swamped by the mainly British *uitlanders* (foreigners) working the goldfields.

Tensions rose with the Jameson Raid in 1896, an unsuccessful British attempt to foment an uitlander uprising. Things only worsened until Transvaal President Paul Kruger laid down an ultimatum – the British had 48 hours to withdraw from the borders of the republics. When they refused, Kruger declared war.

### STRING OF DISASTERS

The Boers seized the initiative, invading Britain's Cape Colony and besieging the towns of Kimberley and Mafeking. Commanded by General Louis Botha (later, the first Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa), they then struck into Natal province and laid siege to Ladysmith. The British responded, but met with a string of disasters. In one December week – 'Black Week' – they suffered defeats at Stormberg and Magersfontein. An attempt by General Sir Redvers Buller, commander of Natal's forces, to relieve Ladysmith had also been bloodily repulsed at Colenso. Despite being outnumbered, the Boers were well-equipped and well-positioned.

Determined, Buller tried again in January. By moving his force, he planned to stretch the Boers and cross the Tugela River, before heading to the besieged town. He put General Sir Charles Warren, recently arrived with reinforcements, in charge of the operation. The plan needed speed, but Warren (the Metropolitan Police Commissioner who failed to catch Jack the Ripper) was slowed by his baggage, allegedly including a cast-iron bath and a kitchen.

So slow was his stately progress towards the crossing point at Trichardt's Drift that the Boers had time to take up position to block Warren's advance. The next mistake came on 18 January. After Lord Dundonald's cavalry managed to outflank the Boer lines, perfectly placing him to move to Ladysmith, he was ordered to retreat so he

could protect the baggage train. This turned out to be only the opening chapter in a catalogue of errors in the following few days.

### DIGGING IN

After Warren's infantry eventually crossed the Tugela, they made little progress. He, therefore, decided to set his sights on the largest hill in the region, Spion Kop ('Spy Hill'), as it sat at the centre of the Boer line. If he could secure it, British artillery could dominate the entire area. Warren gave 1,700 men to General John Coke to capture the hill – although command actually went to Major-General Edward Woodgate as Coke had not recovered from a broken leg. In turn, the powerfully built, six-foot-two Thorneycroft led the assault on the night of 23 January. Ten soldiers were wounded, but Spion Kop was now in British hands. As the Boers ran down the hill in retreat, they shouted, "The English are on the hill!"

Next, the British had to dig in.

A Royal Engineers officer taped out a long line on what he thought to be the crest of the hill, marking where the main trench should be. Unfortunately, many of the pickaxes and spades had been left, and those they had weren't up to the job anyway. Soldiers only managed to dig about 30–40cm before hitting solid rock. Unable to excavate further, they piled up stones to make a low sheltering wall, no doubt cursing the fact they had also left sandbags at the bottom of the hill.

When dawn broke and the fog lifted, the British discovered to their dismay that their trench wasn't on top of the hill at all, but around 200 metres short. To make matters worse, the Boers still held the higher ground, pretty much surrounding the British, with one crest to the right, Aloe Knoll, looking directly down on the trench. In the aftermath of the battle, 70 British soldiers were found shot in the right sides of their heads – they'd died without even knowing where their enemies fired from. If sharpshooters weren't enough to contend with, the British realised they sat within range of Boer artillery. Trapped

## KING OF THE HILL

The Boers had all the momentum – offering their enemy a sterner resistance than expected – but the British hoped to break their defence from Spion Kop's summit



## GOING COMMANDO

While the British army was a traditional one – with regiments of professional soldiers and a formal hierarchical command structure – the Boer armies were very different. Although both Boer republics had a professional artillery service, they filled the rest of their forces with part-time soldiers, informally organised into 'commandos'. Units of mounted riflemen would be based at a particular area or town, and all adult males were obliged to join if called upon. Commandos elected their own officers, and decisions were made at councils of war, with the officers voting on what to do. Whilst this democratic structure made long-term planning difficult for the Boer leadership, the fact that friends and neighbours fought side-by-side in this way gave each commando a considerable *esprit de corps*.

RIGHT: Winston Churchill worked as a war correspondent for *The Morning Post* during the war  
MIDDLE: Soldiers from all over the British Empire were sent to fight in the Boer Wars





### CRACK SHOTS

The Boers were expert marksmen and were equipped with modern weapons.

### YOUNG AND OLD

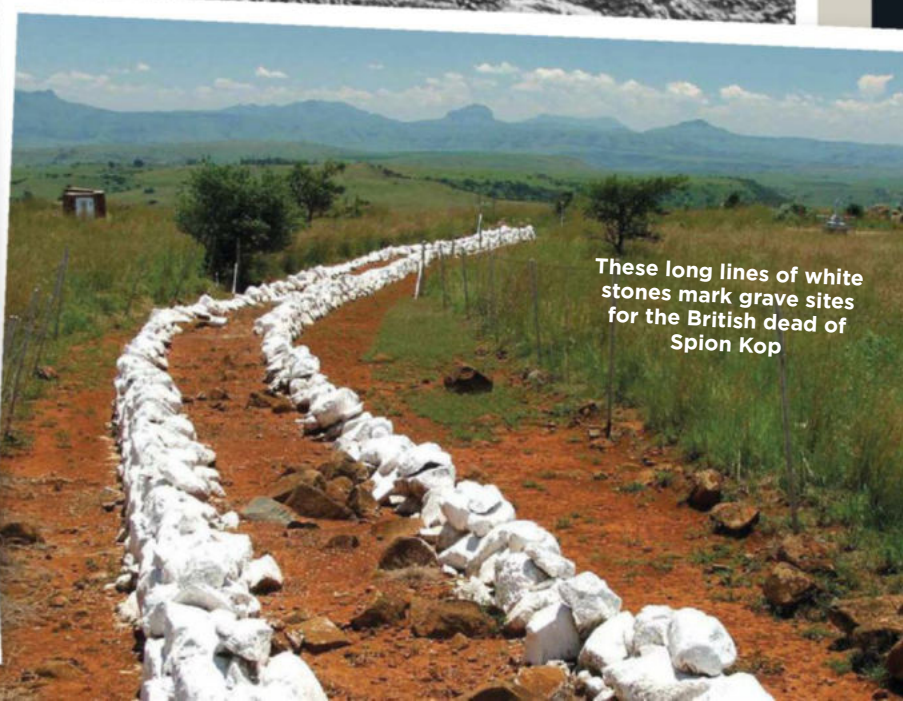
All Boer men between the ages of 16 and 60 could be called up for military service.

### DUSTY WARRIORS

By the outbreak of the war, the British army was clothed in khaki, which takes its name from the Urdu word for dust.

### COME AS YOU ARE

The Boer soldiers wore no uniforms but rode into battle in their everyday clothes.



These long lines of white stones mark grave sites for the British dead of Spion Kop



## BATTLEFIELD SPION KOP, 1900

**TRENCH WARFARE**  
In scenes similar to World War I, British corpses litter the shallow trenches at Spion Kop

with nothing to do but keep their heads down, they were powerless against the salvo of shells at a rate of ten rounds a minute.

### CLOSE AND BITTER

Yet despite the bombardment and snipers, Botha believed that Spion Kop had to be captured by a ground force to oust the British. In the close and bitter combat, some of it hand-to-hand, both sides suffered heavy casualties.

The Boers, armed with rifles and hunting knives, reached the crest of Spion Kop, but no further. By noon, the British were back in their trench, where they endured further enemies – exhaustion, a shortage of water and temperatures reaching up to 40 degrees.

The resulting stalemate didn't give the British any opportunity to regroup, as men were hampered by slow-arriving reinforcements and supplies, crippling confusion

and a breakdown in leadership. Woodgate – who commanded the forces – died after being hit by a shell fragment, quickly followed by fatalities of other officers.

Command at the summit should have passed to Colonel Crofton, but it was Thorneycroft who received a message from Warren informing him to take charge. Astonishingly, Warren didn't tell Coke of this decision, who had set

up his own headquarters on the hill's reverse slope, nor did he send orders to Thorneycroft again during the battle.

Still, the new commander did his best despite the chaos.

He stopped a group of Lancashire Fusiliers from surrendering by bellowing at the Boers: "I am the commandant here, take your men back to hell sir. I allow no surrenders."

It was shortly after 4pm on 24 January that Britain's future Prime Minister Winston Churchill, there as a war correspondent,

**30,000**

The number of Boer farms burned by the British – they also killed millions of sheep

## INDIAN HERO

Winston Churchill and Louis Botha weren't the only future statesmen to risk their lives on Spion Kop. Mohandas Gandhi – the man who would do more than anyone to help India gain independence – had been in South Africa since 1893, working as a lawyer and campaigning for the rights of its sizeable Indian population. When war broke out, Gandhi felt that, if he demanded equal rights as a British citizen, it was his duty to help defend the British Empire, despite his sympathies leaning towards the Boers. So he organised over a thousand of his Indian compatriots into an ambulance corps of stretcher bearers. At Spion Kop, Gandhi and his men carried the wounded down to dressing stations at the foot of the hill, before facing a long march to take their charges to the hospital.

Gandhi (middle row, second from right) with his ambulance corps

## “British soldiers died without even knowing where their enemies fired from”

climbed the hill. On observing the British position, he hurried to headquarters and returned with a promise of artillery, reinforcements and water. It was too late, however. Convinced that remaining on Spion Kop would lead to further slaughter, Thorneycroft ordered his men to pull back. “Better six good battalions safely off the hill tonight than a bloody mop-up in the morning,” he declared.

The irony was that the Boers had retreated as well, under cover of

darkness. Unaware of the extent of the pounding the British had taken and having suffered heavy losses themselves, they abandoned their positions. It was only when two Boers returned to the hill in the early hours of the morning, looking for wounded comrades, that they realised the British had gone. While Buller retreated across the Tugela to rally, the Boers claimed the hill.

Churchill would later describe what he saw on Spion Kop: “Corpses lay here and there. Many of the wounds were of a horrible nature. The splinters and fragments of the shells had torn and mutilated them. The shallow trenches were choked with dead and wounded.”

The British dying and dead, left by retreating comrades, were buried in the very trenches they'd dug the night before. ☉

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The British rallied and retaliated...

Helped by reinforcements from across the Empire, the British relieved Kimberley and Ladysmith in February, then Mafeking in May, which caused riotous celebrations in Britain. They occupied Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, followed by Transvaal's capital Pretoria. In order to halt the Boers' last-ditch guerilla

campaign, the British erected some 3,700 miles of wire fencing, guarded by blockhouses, and carried out a ruthless scorched earth policy. The displaced were housed in concentration camps, where inadequate facilities, poor hygiene and overcrowding led to the deaths of nearly



Inside a British concentration camp in Port Elizabeth

50,000 people. The last of the Boers surrendered in May 1902 and the two Boer republics were finally incorporated into the British Empire.

## GET HOOKED

Find out more about the Battle of Spion Kop

### READ:

Historian Ron Lock's account of the battle, *Hill of Squandered Valour* (2011), includes Winston Churchill's battle report.

EN

# Order in court!

From witches to war crimes, the jury's in on the top 10 trials in history...



## THOMAS MORE

"I beseech Almighty God that I may continue in the mind I am in, through his grace, unto death." So it was that Thomas More – speaking firmly, despite his weakened state from a year spent in the Tower – sealed his own fate. His trial for treason on 1 July 1535 was the last attempt by an impatient Henry VIII to squeeze submission from the man whose principled stand had put a spanner in the King's works. The resolute refusal of England's former Lord Chancellor to endorse Henry as head of the Church in England and to support the split from Rome that would validate the monarch's marriage to Anne Boleyn, left the jurors no option. They took just 15 minutes to find him guilty. On 6 July 1535, he paid the price with his head.

## PENDLE WITCHES

Stood on top of a table in the court room, nine-year-old Jennet Device calmly delivered the words that condemned her entire family and most of her neighbours to death. "My mother is a witch and that I know to be true. At 12 noon about 20 people came to our house – my mother told me they were all witches." The jury in Pendle, Lancashire, were convinced and found them all guilty of causing death or harm by witchcraft. The following day, 20 August 1612, all nine were hanged at Gallows Hill.



Göring testifies at the 10-month trial of the Third Reich's leaders



By Plato's account, stoic Socrates greeted his death nobly, even chastising his followers for their tears.



## OSCAR WILDE

When his lover's father, the Marquess of Queensberry, began publicly besmirching Oscar Wilde for his homosexuality – even leaving Wilde a calling-card addressed to a 'posing somdomite [sic]' – Wilde took him to court for libel. It was to be his undoing. When the writer's private life beyond his wife and two children was examined, the evidence against Wilde was such that he found himself charged with gross indecency. On 25 May 1895, he was imprisoned at Reading Gaol for two years hard labour. The experience broke him and he died at the age of 46.



Wilde's libel action against Queensberry backfired as the evidence mounted

## SOCRATES

What punishment do you want? Seasoned as he was in grappling with the big questions, Socrates failed to give a reply when he had been found guilty, in 399 BC, by a jury of 500 Athenians of corrupting the city-state's youth and ridiculing the gods of Athens. Death, then, was the jury's choice, as they ordered the 70-year-old philosopher to be his own executioner, by drinking a cup of poisonous hemlock.



## NUREMBERG

The eyes of the world were on them. Many of the 22 were grey and balding – some sat stiff and arrogant, some seemed cowed and broken. Contrary to the wishes of Churchill and others for a swift end by firing squad, high-ranking Nazis, including Herman Göring and Rudolf Hess, stood trial over ten months from November 1945. Eighteen were found guilty, with 12 sentenced to death by hanging, two acquitted and the remainder receiving sentences from ten years to life. Yet the thirst for justice was only partially sated as Adolf Hitler, Heinrich Himmler and Joseph Goebbels had committed suicide in the spring. The unrepentant Göring, too, chose a smuggled cyanide capsule rather than face the ignobility of the noose.

Part of the prosecution case hinged on whether blood-soaked gloves found at the murder scene fitted the NFL fullback.



## OJ SIMPSON

The deaths of Nicole Brown and her friend Ron Goldman became something of an afterthought as the movie-style saga of the OJ Simpson trial unfolded. Beginning with a televised car chase of the star NFL fullback's white Ford Bronco through Los Angeles in June 1994, it was followed by months of dramatic coverage from inside the courtroom, complete with show-stopping testimony and heightened 'performances' from the lawyers. Gripped, around 100 million people tuned in to see Simpson acquitted. He was subsequently found liable in a civil suit.



## GALILEO

Being clever didn't win you any prizes in 17th-century Italy. In fact, it won you a life under house arrest for heresy. That's what befell astronomer Galileo Galilei on 22 June 1633, courtesy of the Roman Inquisition. His crime? Having the audacity to believe the Earth wasn't the centre of the universe and revolved around the Sun. The genius's book was banned and he was ordered to recite penitential psalms every week. Some 300 years later, the Church admitted its mistake.



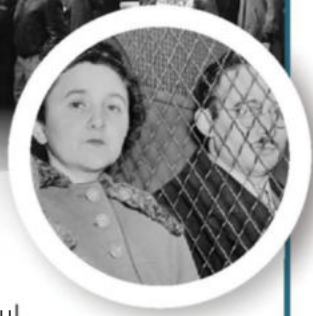
## CHARLES I

The case against: spilling his countrymen's blood by stoking the long, bitter civil wars that killed around 3.5 per cent of the population. The jury: Oliver Cromwell's ad hoc assembly of 135 parliamentarians. January 1649 saw the first trial of a head of state for war crimes and, unluckily for Charles I, his execution was a foregone conclusion. Rejecting the court's authority (he refused to remove his hat or enter a plea), his haughtiness ensured the axe fell on the cold morning of 30 January.



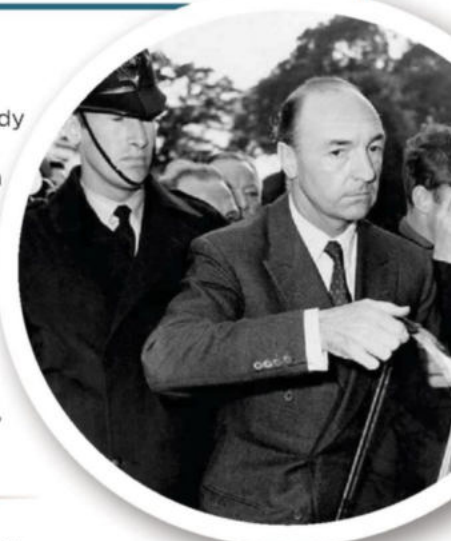
## THE ROSENBERGS

Albert Einstein spoke out, as did Jean-Paul Sartre, Dashiell Hammett and Frida Kahlo. Pope Pius XII appealed for clemency. Ethel herself wrote a desperate plea to President Eisenhower from her cell. All for naught. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg died by electric chair at Sing Sing prison, New York, on 19 June 1953 for passing atomic secrets to the Soviets, the first US civilians executed for espionage. The testimony of Ethel's brother (who supplied the stolen documents to Julius) condemned her. He later confessed he'd lied to protect his wife, the actual typist of the documents.



## PROFUMO

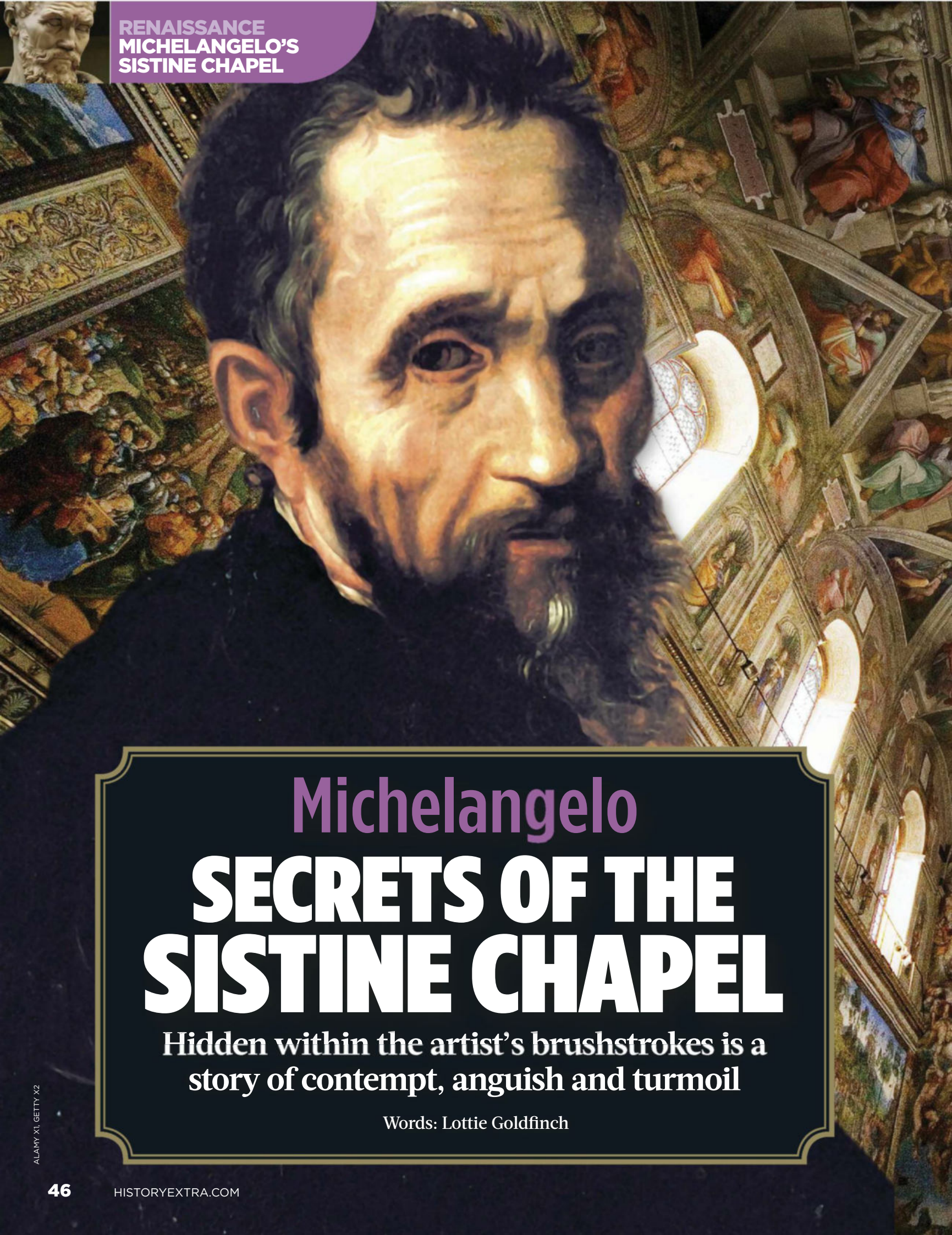
"Well he would, wouldn't he?". Mandy Rice-Davies's riposte – on hearing Lord Astor's denial of an affair with her – brought refreshing clarity to a 1963 trial that had all the intrigue of a Le Carré novel. It had implicating showgirls, a Russian attache, the British aristocracy, gun-toting bit players and the war minister John Profumo, and went all the way to PM Harold Macmillan, who was toppled by the scandal.



   **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

What's your verdict? Are there other notable trials that should have made the list?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



RENAISSANCE  
MICHELANGELO'S  
SISTINE CHAPEL

# Michelangelo

## SECRETS OF THE SISTINE CHAPEL

Hidden within the artist's brushstrokes is a  
story of contempt, anguish and turmoil

Words: Lottie Goldfinch

**A LABOUR OF LOVE?**  
It took Michelangelo over four years to paint the Sistine Chapel, a project he had initially refused after informing the Pope that "painting is not my art"



## RENAISSANCE MICHELANGELO'S SISTINE CHAPEL



### TALL ORDER

The new basilica was designed to hold the Pope's monumental tomb



### GRAVE DELAY

Michelangelo's sketch for an enormous tomb for Pope Julius II, an expensive project he was forced to put on hold while the new basilica was built

**W**hen Johann von Goethe visited the Vatican in 1787, he wrote: "Without having seen the Sistine Chapel, one can form no appreciable idea of what one man is capable of achieving." His sentiments are echoed in the minds of the 5 million visitors who today file into the chapel every year, heads tipped back to take in as much of the ceiling's artwork as possible. The jewel in the crown of any visit to Vatican City, the Sistine Chapel ceiling remains one of the most phenomenal works of western art, a feat made even more remarkable by the fact that its creator never wanted the commission in the first place, claiming "painting is not my art".

The chapel's exterior belies the magnificence within. Built between 1473 and 1481 on the orders of Pope Sixtus IV, after whom it is named, the four-storey rectangular building was designed to be accessed from within the papal palace, as it is today. Commissioned as a private chapel for the popes of Rome, as well as acting as the official meeting place for the papal court, the Sistine Chapel was built to the exact dimensions of the Temple of Solomon as it is described in the Old Testament. When the chapel was

completed, artist Piero Matteo d'Amelia frescoed the ceiling with a star-spangled sky, while the long interior walls were decorated with religious works by renowned artists of the day, including Pietro Perugino, Cosimo Rosselli and Sandro Botticelli.

### CULTURAL CAPITAL

In 1503, a new pope, Julius II, was elected – one of the most powerful rulers of his age and the greatest patron of the arts of any pope before or since – a man whose mission was to transform Rome into the cultural capital of the world. Living and working in Florence, Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni first came to the new

pope's attention after completing his sculpture, *Pietà*, in 1499. Carved to adorn the tomb of French cardinal Jean Bilhères de Lagraulas, the beautiful marble depiction of the Virgin Mary cradling the body of the crucified Jesus was unveiled to rave reviews. *Pietà* was

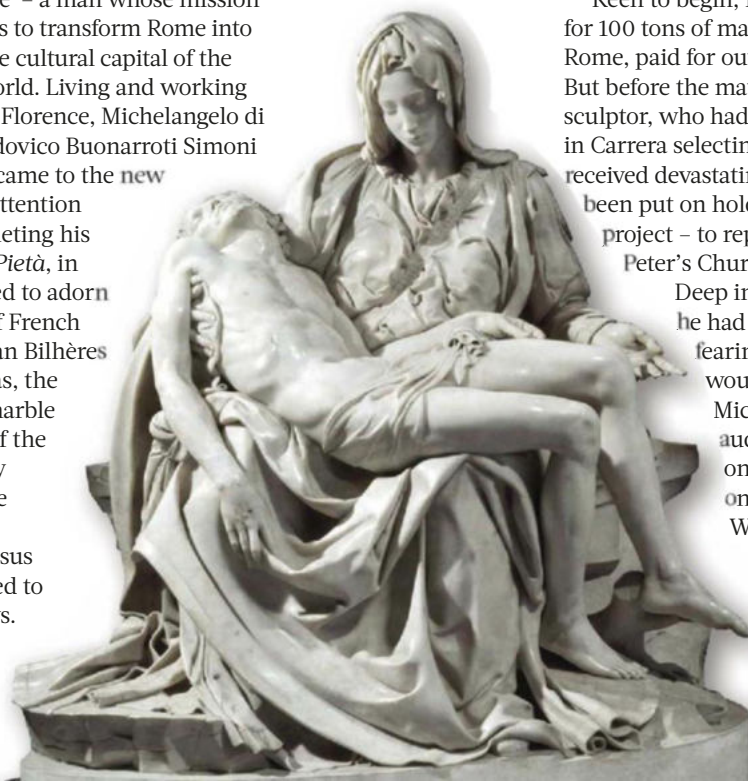
Michelangelo's sublime marble sculpture of Mary and the crucified Christ helped win him the commission to paint the Sistine Chapel ceiling

followed in 1505 with the colossal 5m-tall (16ft) *David*, which towered over Florence on a pedestal in the Piazza della Signoria. Michelangelo's status as one of Italy's most sought-after artists was sealed.

After seeing *Pietà*, Julius was determined for Michelangelo to carve his tomb, and the sculptor was summoned to Rome. His design was unlike any seen before – 16.5m (54ft) high and 10m (33ft) wide, with more than 40 life-sized statues carved in marble.

Keen to begin, Michelangelo arranged for 100 tons of marble to be shipped to Rome, paid for out of his own pocket. But before the materials had arrived, the sculptor, who had spent nine months in Carrara selecting the finest marble, received devastating news. The tomb had been put on hold for an even bigger project – to replace the existing St Peter's Church with a new basilica.

Deep in debt for the materials he had purchased, and fearing that the tomb would be shelved for good, Michelangelo sought an audience with the Pope, only to be turned away on several occasions. When the artist was finally instructed to leave the Vatican, still without an audience, he



79

The maximum age permitted to be a voting cardinal



lightly and his violent rages are well documented, as is his tendency to thrash underlings with his cane. But rather than acquiesce to his demands, the equally tempestuous and stubborn Michelangelo instead cantered through the darkness to Florence, where the Pope had no jurisdiction. There he stayed for seven months, resolutely ignoring all correspondence from Julius commanding his return.

The two men eventually reconciled in Bologna, where Michelangelo reluctantly accepted a commission to cast a huge bronze sculpture of the Pope. Michelangelo, who had little experience with bronze, spent two miserable years working on the project but, in spring 1508, it seemed as if his hard work had paid off when he was summoned to Rome. Hoping to resume work on Julius II's tomb, Michelangelo's disappointment at discovering that his commission was, in fact, to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, must have been palpable.

Despite training as a painter, Michelangelo had little love for the paintbrush. What's more, he had virtually no experience in fresco work, a difficult technique that involved painting directly onto wet plaster to allow the paint to merge with the plaster as it set, thereby making the painting part of the wall itself.

The Pope's initial design was a depiction of the 12 apostles, an idea dismissed by an uninspired Michelangelo as being a *cosa povera* (poor thing). Instead, the sculptor was allowed to submit his own ambitious design for the vast ceiling. "He [Julius II]

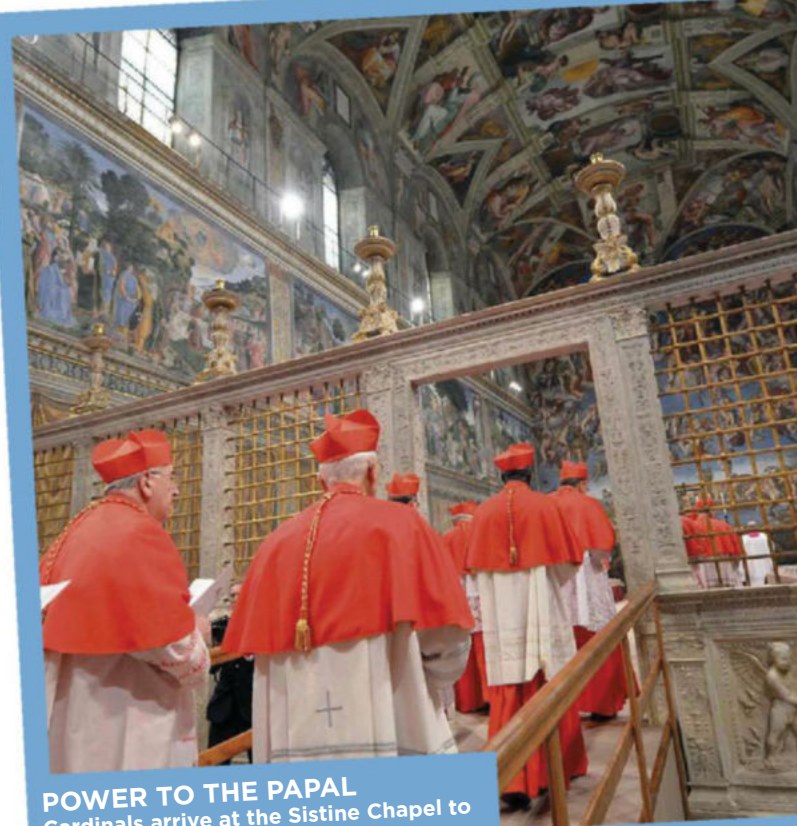
furiously declared: "From now on, if he [Julius II] wants me, he can look for me elsewhere". And with that, the headstrong sculptor fled Rome, vowing never to return.

## RELUCTANT RETURN

Julius soon discovered Michelangelo's absence, dispatching horsemen to bring the disgraced sculptor back to the capital. Julius II's reputation as *il papa terribile* (the terrifying pope) was not to be taken

### DID YOU KNOW?

The area of the Sistine Chapel ceiling measures 12,000 square feet



**POWER TO THE PAPAL**  
Cardinals arrive at the Sistine Chapel to vote on a new pope in 2013

## CHAPEL CONCLAVE PICKING A POPE

Serving as the Pope's private chapel, the Sistine Chapel saw its first papal conclave in 1492, but became the sole location for such events from 1870. However, voting has not always been anonymous. Secret ballots were introduced in 1621 by Pope Gregory XV as a way of ensuring that votes were not influenced by relationships outside the chapel, and that the cardinals felt able to vote without fear and according to their conscience.

The election process can take days or even months – the longest papal election, to choose a successor for Clement IV, lasted almost three years, from November 1268 until September 1271. During the election, which saw three cardinals die and one resign, the townspeople allegedly reduced the electors' rations to bread and water and removed the roof of the Palazzo dei Papi di Viterbo in an attempt to speed matters up. Perhaps no surprise, then, that a papal conclave was established soon after, which gave strict regulations to the process. Since 1831, no conclave has lasted longer than a week.

After each round of voting, the ballots are burned – it is this that creates the black or white smoke to indicate whether a pope has been elected. If the two-thirds majority (required since Benedict XVI) has not been reached, black smoke billows from the chapel. In the past, this coloured smoke was created by damp straw – more recently, it has been created by a mixture of potassium perchlorate, anthracene and sulphur.

For anyone fancying a tenure as pope, the good news is that the only two requirements needed are to be male and baptised into the Catholic Church. The bad news is that a non-cardinal hasn't been chosen since 1378.

### BEFORE MICHELANGELO

The chapel before renovation, showing its original star-covered ceiling by Piero Matteo d'Amelia





## RENAISSANCE MICHELANGELO'S SISTINE CHAPEL

gave me a new commission, to do what I liked," he wrote.

The central part of the ceiling, he decided, would depict nine stories from the Book of Genesis, divided into three themes – creation, humanity's downfall and the story of Noah. The rest of the ceiling would feature prophets and sibyls (Greek oracles), the ancestors of Christ, and the salvation of Israelites. The finished design was a monumental piece of work, comprising more than 300 individual figures.

### TORTURED ARTIST

Michelangelo's first task was to devise a way of accessing the ceiling without obstructing events below. The traditional ground-supported scaffolding used by most plasterers and artists would be too obtrusive, so, after dismissing the idea of a hanging scaffold, which would leave holes in the ceiling, Michelangelo designed his own. A sketch found in the corner of one of his drawings depicts a series of footbridge-type constructions that would span the chapel from window level rather than rising up from the floor.

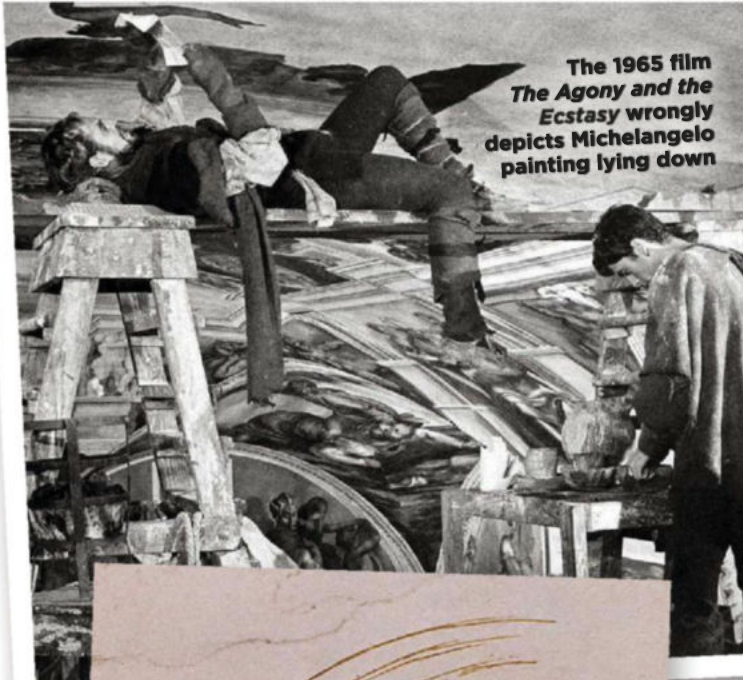
Contrary to popular belief, however, Michelangelo did not paint the ceiling lying on his back. His scaffold system allowed him to paint in a standing position, but the process was incredibly uncomfortable. In 1509, Michelangelo captured the torturous process in poetry, writing: "My belly's pushed by force beneath my chin / My beard

toward heaven, I feel the back of my brain / Upon my neck... In front of me my skin is being stretched / While it folds up behind and forms a knot / And I am bending like a Syrian bow."

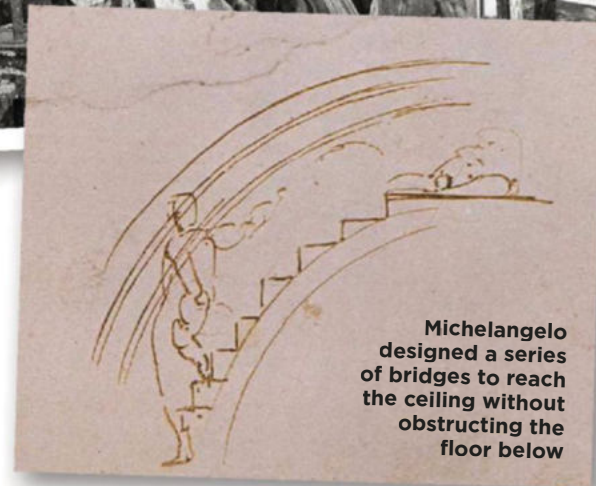
Despite its comedic tone, the poem highlights the physical strain under which Michelangelo worked, a process that he claimed permanently damaged his eyesight. Scribbled next to his poem is a small caricature of himself, straining to paint a figure on the ceiling. Michelangelo lived and breathed his art, often sleeping in his clothes and boots, washing infrequently and eating more out of necessity than for actual pleasure.

Other problems, too, beset the project. The artist's biographer, Giorgio Vasari, reported that after a third of the vault had been painted, mould was discovered due to the plaster being too wet. A despairing Michelangelo ran to the Pope, pleading with him to release him from his contract, but was persuaded to continue and an expert sent to help resolve the problem.

Work on the ceiling finally finished in October 1512, and on 1 November Julius II inaugurated the chapel with a mass to celebrate the Feast of All Saints. "When the work was thrown open, the whole world could be heard running up to see it and, indeed, it was such as to make everyone astonished and dumb," wrote Vasari. Michelangelo's mammoth task was complete. Or so he thought.



The 1965 film *The Agony and the Ecstasy* wrongly depicts Michelangelo painting lying down



Michelangelo designed a series of bridges to reach the ceiling without obstructing the floor below

**"Michelangelo pleaded to be released from his contract"**

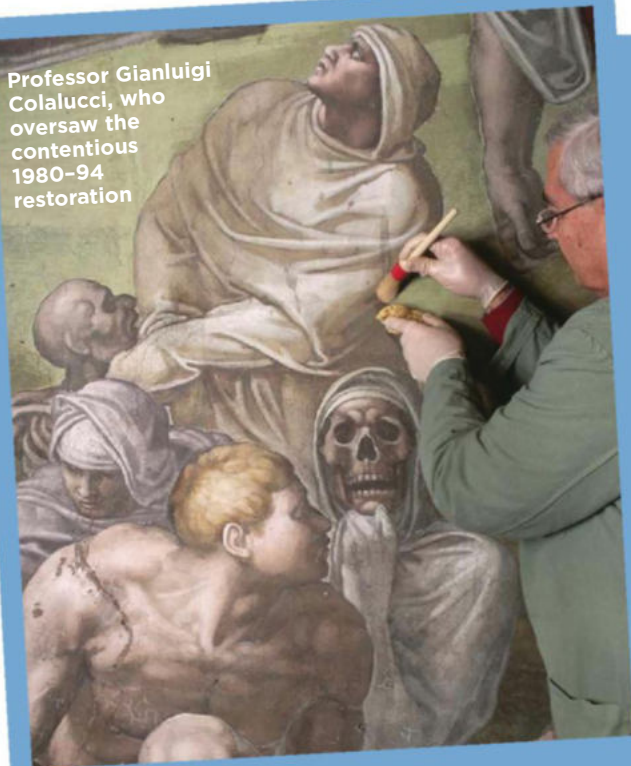
## RESTORATION CONTROVERSIAL CLEAN-UP

Now more than 500 years old, it's not surprising that Michelangelo's artwork has needed some help staying clean over the centuries. Early conservators of the ceiling used linseed, animal fat and walnut oil in an attempt to halt the damage, and in 1625, bread – sometimes wet – was rubbed over the ceiling.

In 1980, a 14-year restoration project began on the frescoes to remove centuries of candle wax, soot and other stains. Using the same scaffold holes made by Michelangelo, a team of conservators set about recording and restoring the precious artworks.

The results divided the art world. Many felt that the intensity of the colours was the result of overzealous restoration treatment, rather than the authentic colours that had been used by Michelangelo. One expert proposed that the cleaning agent used had, in fact, chemically altered the frescoes and may have removed some of the overpainting and shadow work Michelangelo had performed on dry plaster, and then glued, in order to tone down the colours. The Vatican, however, maintains that the layers of glue removed were the work of previous restoration attempts. Today it is left to the visitor to decide.

Professor Gianluigi Colalucci, who oversaw the contentious 1980-94 restoration



## THE CHAPEL CEILING

### DID YOU KNOW?

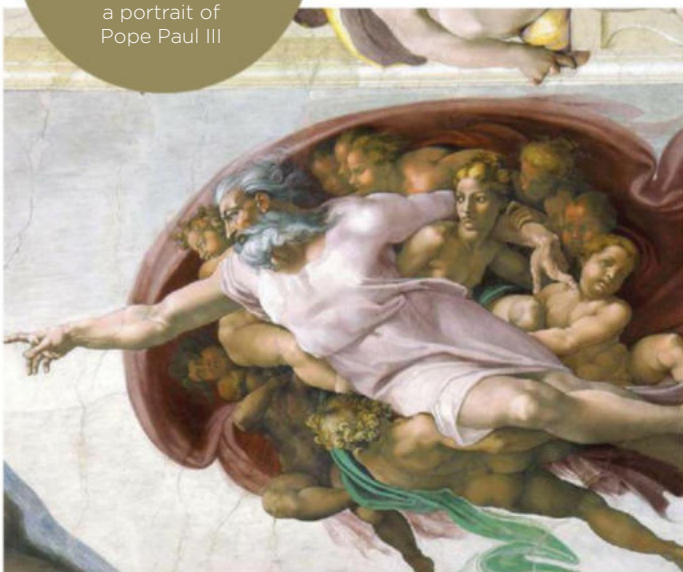
The figure of St Peter in *The Last Judgement*, holding the keys to heaven, is actually a portrait of Pope Paul III

### CHEEKY CHERUB

By putting his thumb between his middle and index fingers to make a 'fig' gesture, this cherub is being very rude indeed.

6

The number of times God is depicted in the ceiling frescoes



Michelangelo's portrayal of God, with long, white hair and a beard, was the first time He had been depicted in such a way. Most earlier paintings depicted Him simply as a hand reaching down through the clouds.



Featured prominently alongside the seven Old Testament prophets depicted on the ceiling is the powerfully built Cumaean Sibyl, a Greek prophetess who, like them, predicted the birth of a saviour.



## RENAISSANCE MICHELANGELO'S SISTINE CHAPEL

Michelangelo did finally get his wish to work on the tomb of Julius II, albeit a much smaller version, but in September 1534, the artist returned to the Vatican at the behest of Pope Clement VII who, just days from death, commissioned Michelangelo to paint a fresco of Christ's resurrection on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel. Clement's successor, Pope Paul III, however, disagreed with the choice of subject matter and instead instructed Michelangelo to paint the Last Judgement.

The Church itself was under scrutiny during this period, and the 1530s saw great religious upheaval with the Protestant Reformation. This had originated in Germany, and sought to end the abuses of power and supposed immoral teachings of the Roman Catholic institution.

### MELLOWER MAN

Michelangelo, by then in his 60s, began work on the huge piece in 1536, but it would be like none ever produced before. Now a mellower character, and one perhaps contemplating his own death, Michelangelo poured much of his own spiritual turmoil into his painting. It is interpreted by many as an attempt to

reconcile his Catholic beliefs with his humanist leanings – placing man at the centre of everything rather than God. By this point in his life, Michelangelo's relationship with the Catholic Church had become somewhat strained and he disapproved of the corruption within.

At the heart of the painting, we see the figure of Christ deciding the fate of the human race. But, unlike medieval depictions, Michelangelo painted

Christ as a huge, naked, muscular man whose presence dominates the centre of the piece. The anatomical detail given to this and every other figure in the painting is extraordinary, the result of painstaking examination of the

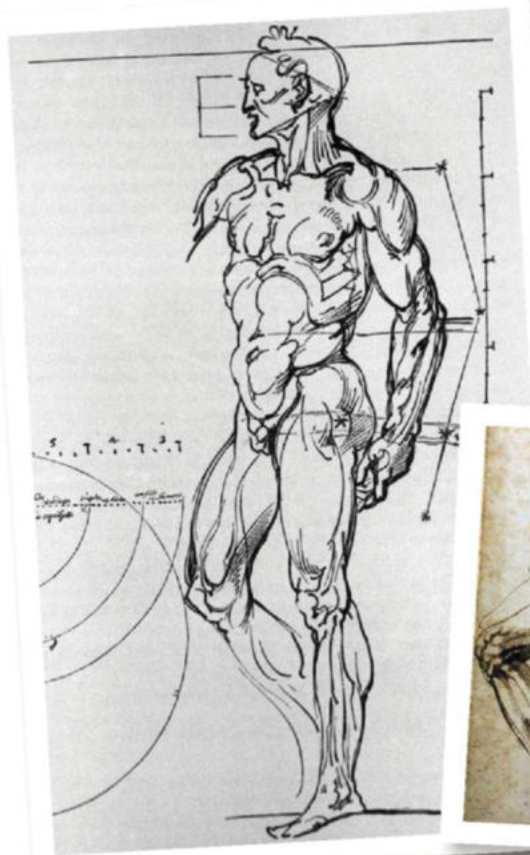
human body. Michelangelo had, in fact, begun dissecting cadavers early in his career and continued these anatomical studies throughout his life. This clash of science and religion can be seen throughout the painting – many believe that the artist deliberately concealed a number of human organs in both the chapel ceiling and *The Last Judgement* as subtle criticisms of the Catholic Church, which regularly condemned scientific investigation.

Surrounding Christ and the Virgin Mary are a multitude of saints, all depicted with the instruments of their martyrdom – St Lawrence with a ladder to symbolise the grate on which he was burned, St Catherine with her wheel, St Sebastian with arrows and St Bartholomew holding onto his flayed skin.

**Michelangelo carried out anatomical dissections, assisting him in his forays into both art and science**

**3,000**

The amount, in ducats, that Michelangelo was paid for his work on the ceiling. This was 30 times the annual salary of a goldsmith



## THE LAST JUDGEMENT



**1** Christ, set against a golden aureole, is surrounded by a swirl of bodies, his right arm raised in a gesture of command. Beside him, the Virgin Mary turns her head away, no longer able to intercede for the condemned.



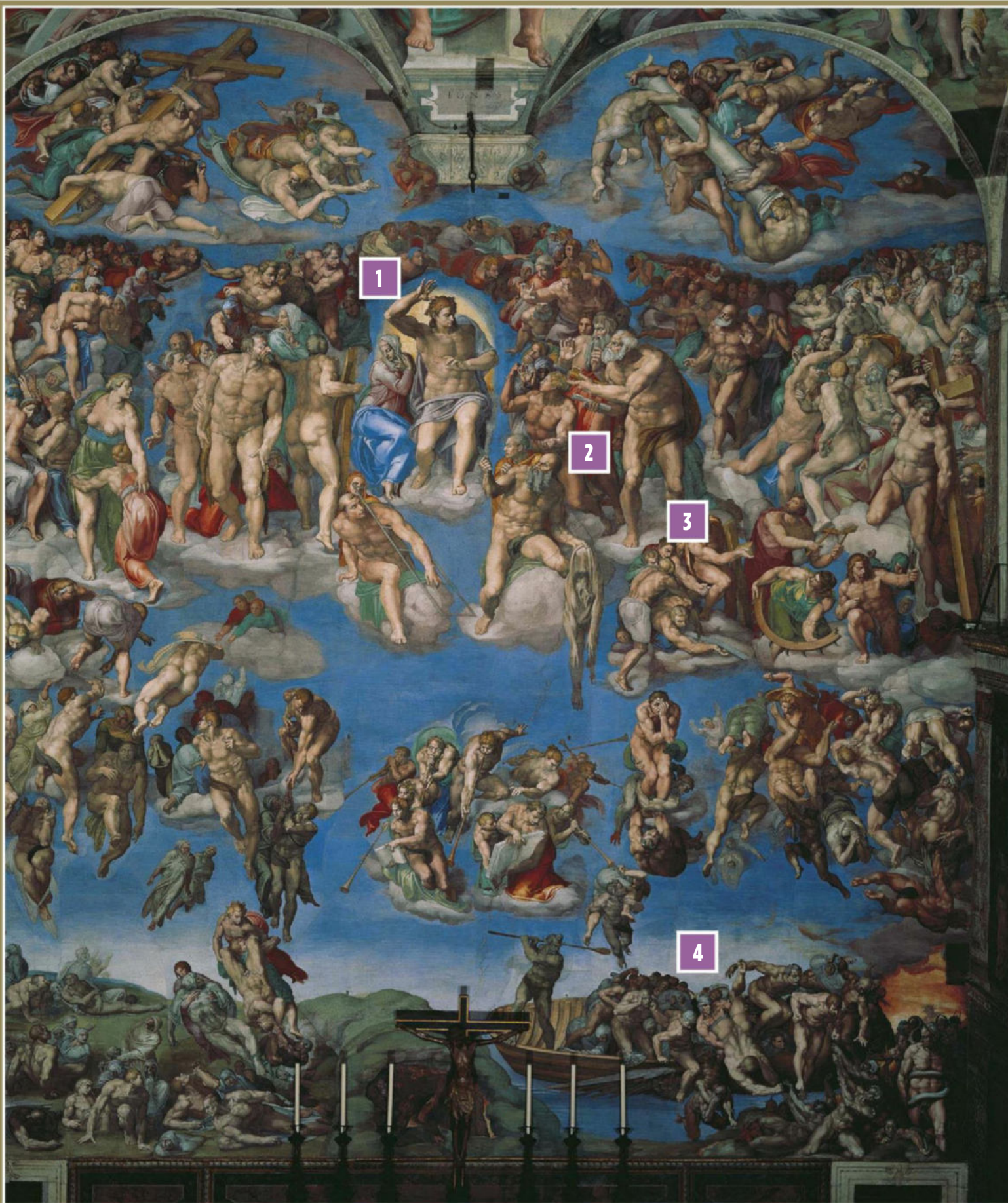
**2** The flayed skin of St Bartholomew is believed to be a self-portrait painted by Michelangelo, a metaphor for the artist's tortured soul and his anguish at the huge task of painting the chapel.



**3** A number of saints are depicted with the instruments of their martyrdom. Here, left to right, is St Philip (crucified), St Blaise (attacked with iron combs), St Catherine (tortured on a spiked wheel) and St Sebastian (shot with arrows).



**4** Minos, king of hell, is shown with a serpent wrapped around him – a reminder of the different circles of hell to which condemned souls are sent. Around him, damned souls tumble out of the boat that has ferried them into hell.





#### NUDE LOOK

Da Volterra covered the subjects' modesty with drapes and fig leaves, giving him a reputation as a prude.

## NUDES OF THE WORLD

### The Fig Leaf Cover-up

Controversy over the inclusion of full nudes in *The Last Judgment* began when the paint was barely dry and continued well beyond Michelangelo's death in 1564. The latter half of the 16th century saw a great wave of moralising reform sweep across Europe. The third meeting of Catholic bishops at the Council of Trent in 1562-63 had condemned nudity in art, stating that, with regards to sacred images, "all lasciviousness be avoided; in such wise that figures shall not be painted or adorned with a beauty exciting to lust." Taking the council at its word, in 1565, just a year after the artist's death, Pope Pius IV ordered the offending parts of Michelangelo's nudes to be clothed.

The man given the dubious honour of adding to the masterpiece was Daniele da Volterra, a pupil and close friend of Michelangelo. Quite how he felt about the task is unknown, but his work on the piece earned him the nickname 'Il Braghettone' ('the breeches maker'), as well as a posthumous reputation as a prude.

Da Volterra painted drapes and fig leaves over many of the nudes, as well as making substantial changes to the

image of St Catherine, and completely repainting St Blaise, who stands behind her – in Michelangelo's original, a burly, naked St Blaise appears to be looking at St Catherine's rear in a manner rather inappropriate for a saint. Da Volterra's amends show St Blaise, now clothed, looking back over his shoulder.

Da Volterra's work was interrupted at the end of 1565, however, with the Pope's death – the scaffolding was swiftly removed to allow the chapel to be used for the election of a new pope. Similar cover-ups were made to the remaining nudes in the lower half of the piece over the following centuries.

But we can still see the masterpiece in its original glory, albeit a much smaller version. Concerned that the painting would be lost under layers of censorship, art-loving cardinal Alessandro Farnese had the foresight, in 1549, to commission Italian artist Marcello Venusti to paint a copy of *The Last Judgment* in its original glory. Measuring just under 2m (6ft) tall – a fraction of the original – and painted on wood, Venusti's copy is housed in Naples' Capodimonte Museum.



GETTY X2

## DIVINE INSPIRATION

As well as Catholic symbolism, Michelangelo included mythological imagery, mainly taken from Dante Alighieri's epic 14th-century poem, *The Divine Comedy*. The poem, which sees

**Dante's *Divine Comedy* inspired many of the Renaissance artists, including Botticelli**



Dante travel through hell, purgatory and heaven, clearly had a profound influence on Michelangelo, whose depiction of hell is borrowed directly from the work. Charon, the mythological ferryman, is seen rowing condemned souls across the River Styx into hell, while all around him men and women are being dragged down by terrible creatures.

Like the ceiling, the piece took a great deal out of Michaelangelo, physically and mentally, and the self-portraits he is thought to have hidden in the piece all show him in pain or torment. But he did retain some sense of humour. The figure of Minos, mythological king of hell, complete with donkey's ears and coiled snake biting a rather sensitive part of his anatomy, is believed to be a likeness of one of

Michelangelo enemies, the Pope's master of ceremonies, Biagio da Cesena. When Cesena complained to the Pope about the insult, the latter allegedly joked that since he had no power over hell, the image would have to remain as it was.

Michelangelo's masterpiece received mixed reviews when it was

unveiled in 1541. Many were horrified that so many of the figures had been painted naked, genitals fully visible. Cesena, already smarting from being cast as the king of hell, declared it was fit only "for the public baths and taverns," while Cardinal Carafa accused Michelangelo of obscenity and launched a campaign to have all of the nudes covered.

The naked figures were eventually clothed (see *The Fig Leaf Cover-up*, above), but *The Last Judgment* remains one of the greatest pieces of religious art ever made, offering a fascinating glimpse into the mind of a truly remarkable Renaissance man. 🎯

### DID YOU KNOW?

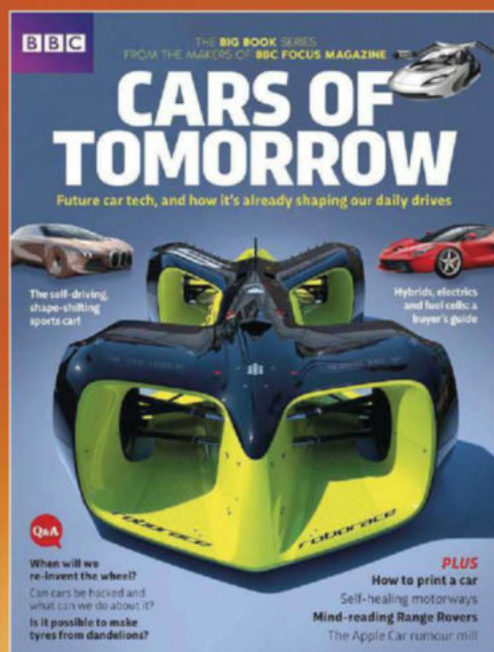
The mouth of hell in *The Last Judgment* was placed directly behind the chapel's papal seat. This was Michelangelo's less-than-subtle take on the corruption of the Catholic Church

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# THE BERLIN WALL: RISE AND FALL

For nearly 30 years, the Berlin Wall was the defining symbol of the Cold War, keeping families apart and preventing East Germans from fleeing to the capitalist West

## AT A GLANCE

Mile upon mile of unyielding concrete, the Berlin Wall stood as the physical manifestation of the deep tensions between East and West, from its erection in 1961 until its dramatic fall in 1989. In those years, lives were lost attempting to breach it, communities were torn apart and, finally, a new political openness – and administrative ineptitude – led to the glorious moment of popular rebellion that brought it down.

### DARK NEW DAY

Morning has barely broken before thousands of angry West Berliners rally at the newly built wall. Some chant "Schweine!" ("Pigs!"), while others shake their fists at the East German guards, who face them in a line that stretches as far as the eye can see.

## CARVING UP THE CAPITAL

Berlin becomes the collision point of East versus West



### TENSIONS RISE

Split administratively since 1948, with two police forces, two governments and two currencies, tensions mount around Berlin's future. Massive numbers of East Germans - more than two million between 1949 and 1961 - use the city as an escape hatch to the West.



### CITY SLASHED IN TWO

To stem the exodus of skilled workers, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) deploys soldiers to build around 100 miles of barbed wire fences. Berliners awake on 13 August 1961 to find the city's east and west divided. The GDR names the structure the Anti-Fascist Protective Wall and forbids inhabitants from setting foot in West Berlin.



### BUILDING BLOCKS

Many people, including some disaffected guards, continue to cross. But on 16 August, buoyed by the lack of response from the West, the GDR orders that the fence be reinforced with concrete blocks. Soldiers are told to open fire on those who try to cross.

ACHTUNG!  
Sie verlassen jetzt  
WEST-BERLIN

## IN PICTURES THE BERLIN WALL

### CHRISTMAS CROSSINGS

West Berliners queue for hours in the freezing cold to get a one-day pass to visit relatives in the East. Very few permits are given over the years, and East Berliners are entirely barred from crossing the barrier.

### FAMILIES SPLIT

A West Berliner displays her day pass to visit relatives in East Berlin. The wall bisects the city indiscriminately, forcing parents from children, sibling from sibling.

Potsdamer Platz

WV 412

**Passtierschein**  
Bescheinigung des Durchgangs durch die Mauer zum  
Gang in den Osten und zum Aufenthalt im Ost-Berlin

Name	Ludwig, Hans		PLZ	1000
Geburtsdatum	12. Sept. 1908	geb. Ort	Berlin	
Wohnort	Potsdamer Platz 11		PLZ	1000
Wohnort	Ludwigstr. 11		PLZ	1000
Wohnort	Ludwigstr. 11		PLZ	1000
Wohnort	Ludwigstr. 11		PLZ	1000

Wohnort: Potsdamer Platz 11  
Wohnort: Ludwigstr. 11  
Wohnort: Ludwigstr. 11  
Wohnort: Ludwigstr. 11

**PROPAGANDA WAR**  
A 'Studio am Stacheldraht' (Studio at the Barbed Wire) campervan broadcasts music and messages from the West across the wall. Authorities in the East respond with their own loudspeakers, blasting out marching music and communist messages.

*"Studio am Stacheldraht"  
mit Schlagzeilen v. 7. Okt. 65  
Berlin:  
Zonenstaatssekretär Kohl  
wird nun doch am 8. Okt. 65  
zu einem erneuten Passier-  
scheinggespräch mit Senats-  
rat Korber zusammentreffen.*



## BIDS FOR FREEDOM

Hundreds attempt to escape to freedom in the West



### AUDACIOUS ATTEMPTS

War veteran Hans Weidner uses an armoured bus to crash through the wall, helping eight people to escape. In the early years, there are almost daily attempts to flee. Although some opt for the risky climb over the wall, many more use fake passports to cross. Others swim the canal, hide in cars, wade through the sewers or build secret tunnels.

### DESPERATE MEASURES

From a house on the border, a four-year-old boy is thrown by his father into a net held by residents in West Berlin. The GDR soon demolishes such border houses.



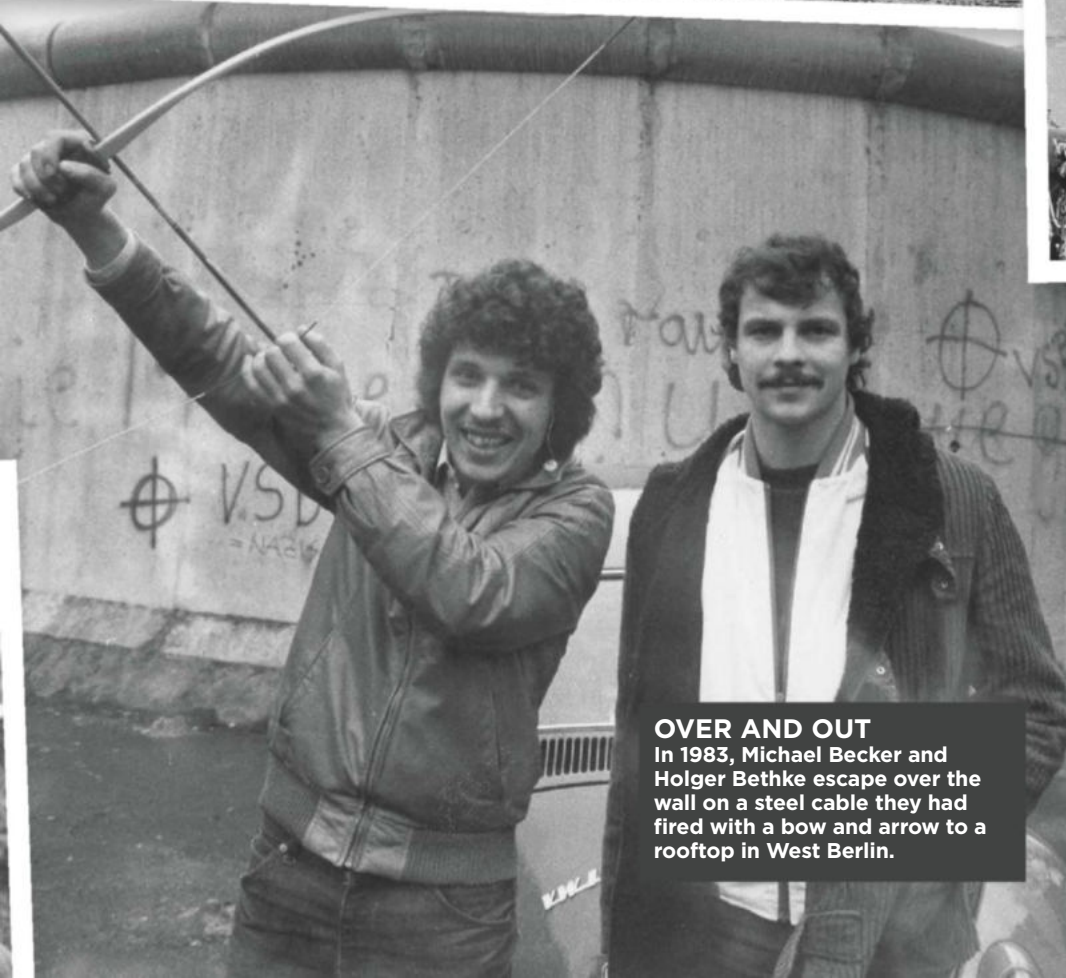
### GOING UNDERGROUND

October 1964 sees the most successful mass escape – 57 people squeeze through the 130m 'Tunnel 57' dug by 25 West German students. Sited in a disused bakery and five months in the making, the 12m-deep shaft is just 80cm wide, with air blown in via a vacuum cleaner allegedly through a tin can pipe.



### OVER AND OUT

In 1983, Michael Becker and Holger Bethke escape over the wall on a steel cable they had fired with a bow and arrow to a rooftop in West Berlin.





## IN PICTURES THE BERLIN WALL

### SHOOTING TO KILL

East German guards remove the body of attempted escapee Peter Fechter. In August 1962, the 18-year-old is shot on the wall in full view of hundreds of West Berliners who are unable to reach him. It takes an hour for Fechter to bleed to death.



**BY 1964, MORE THAN 40 PEOPLE  
HAD LOST THEIR LIVES IN ESCAPE  
ATTEMPTS, MOST OF THEM SHOT**



AT ONE POINT, THE WALL  
HAD AS MANY AS 12,000  
BORDER GUARDS PROTECTING IT

This aerial photograph shows the Berlin Wall as a long, straight concrete barrier. To the left of the wall is a paved road with a sidewalk and streetlights. To the right is a wide, open area called the 'Death Strip', which is filled with multiple layers of barbed wire and wooden palisades. Two border guards in dark uniforms are visible standing near the wall. In the background, there are some buildings and more layers of fencing.

#### DEATH STRIP

Over time, two parallel walls are built, with 'death strips' in between – 30–150m wide, with beds of nails, electric fences, attack dogs and alarm wires. The walls are further protected by 302 watchtowers.



#### MEMORIALS TO THE DEAD

THIS PIC: Chris Gueffroy, 20, is the last person to be shot. In February 1989, he decides to escape after hearing from a border guard that the shoot-to-kill order had been revoked – it hadn't. RIGHT: Bernd Lünser, 22, dies instantly falling from a rooftop in October 1961 after grappling with guards, missing the West German firefighters' rescue net below.





GETTY X4, PRESS ASSOCIATION XI

### WALL OVER

November 1989 and East German guards look on as the wall tumbles, while crowds rejoice as friends and family are reunited. The Soviet hold on eastern Europe – which had seemed so unshakeable – in a brief moment collapses.



### HIT THE ROCKS

Berliners chisel fragments from the wall as souvenirs of the historic moment – and perhaps also to express their anger at the structure that caused so much suffering.

## THE WORLD AND THE WALL

The steps that brought the wall down



### “ICH BIN EIN BERLINER”

Although his famous expression of solidarity offers hope to the crowds at West Berlin's city hall in June 1963, John F Kennedy's options are limited. Unwilling to enter into a confrontation that could end in nuclear war with the Soviets, he regards the wall as the better option and it soon becomes clear that he will not intervene.

### GORBACHEV SOWS THE SEEDS

Mikhail Gorbachev greets GDR leader Erich Honecker on a visit to East Berlin in October 1989. Gorbachev, pursuing his new policies of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring), announces that Moscow will “respect the right of all peoples to self-determination”. He urges the inflexible Honecker to heed the shifting political atmosphere as a wave of countries throw off communist rule. One by one, borders begin to open to the West.



### THE STUNNING ANNOUNCEMENT

Ironically, for a regime based on austere control, the wall's fall is comically mishandled. Politburo spokesperson Günter Schabowski on 9 November 1989 announces changes that will allow East Germans with permits to cross the border. But he mistakenly implies this new freedom is with immediate effect. On hearing the news, thousands head for the wall...

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**BLOODLUST**

A 16th-century engraving depicts the Spaniard's torture of Native Americans in Florida

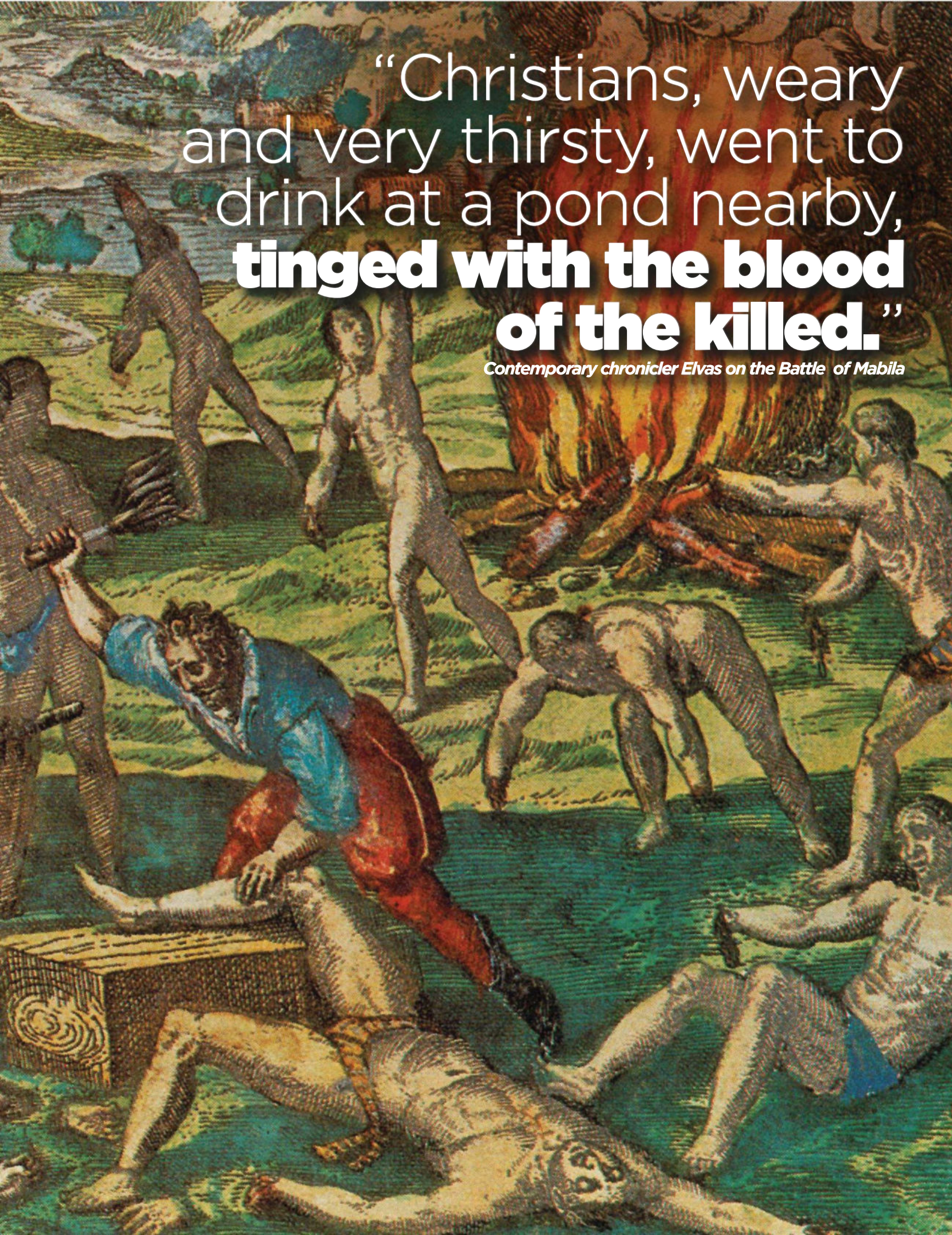
# THE DOOMED QUEST OF HERNANDO DE SOTO

Spanish conquistador Hernando de Soto made his fortune invading South and Central America but, as **Pat Kinsella** tells us, a wild goose chase for gold took him across the Mississippi, and cost him more than just his money...

ALAMY X2, GETTY X1

“Christians, weary  
and very thirsty, went to  
drink at a pond nearby,  
**tinged with the blood  
of the killed.**”

*Contemporary chronicler Elvas on the Battle of Mabila*





## GREAT ADVENTURES HERNANDO DE SOTO

**H**ernando de Soto proved he was worth considerably more than his own weight in gold during Spain's treasure-frenzied, empire-toppling conquests of South and Central America.

Having taken part in gold-seeking expeditions and slave-trading enterprises in the Yucatán Peninsula, Panama, Nicaragua and Colombia, and fought the Incas alongside Francisco Pizarro in Peru, he returned to his homeland in 1536 with a huge swag of sparkling spoils – an immensely wealthy man at just 36 years of age.

But despite his riches, and a marriage to the royally connected Isabel de Bobadilla, de Soto wasn't ready to settle down into domesticity. He soon became beguiled by stories of adventure percolating back across the Atlantic, including the amazing tale of Cabeza de Vaca (see box, p68), one of just a handful of survivors from a disastrous 600-man expedition to North America led by Spaniard Pánfilo de Narváez in 1527. De Soto appealed to King Charles for the governorship of Ecuador, simultaneously seeking "permission to create discovery in the South Sea", but was given control of Cuba instead. Charles further issued him with orders to conquer and colonise the region then known as La Florida and, in 1539, de Soto embarked on an expedition to try and succeed where Narváez had so spectacularly failed.

### HOT TAMPA

De Soto selected 620 young men – fortune-seeking volunteers from Spain, Portugal, Cuba and North Africa, picked primarily for their battling ability – and set sail from Havana, heading north towards the peninsula dangling down from the North American mainland. The Florida-bound flotilla was comprised of seven of King Charles's ships and two caravels belonging to de Soto himself.

On board – besides the large fighting force – were craftsmen, farmers, families and holy men,



**PROMISING START**  
De Soto's flotilla lands near Tampa Bay, eager to take new territories and riches  
RIGHT: The expedition is welcomed by female chief Cofitachequi and given gifts and food

plus 237 horses, 200 pigs and other assorted livestock. It was all the ingredients that the ambitious explorer thought he required for a planned four-year expedition, with the aim of seeding a colony and bolstering his bank account.

In May 1539, the expedition came ashore in the southern section of what's now known as Tampa Bay, which de Soto christened Espíritu Santo, in honour of the Holy Spirit.

Close to where he made landfall, de Soto had the extraordinary luck to encounter and enlist a Spaniard called Juan Ortiz, a castaway who was living with the Mocoso people. Ortiz had been part of a search party looking

for the lost land-travelling contingent of the Narváez expedition, until he was captured and enslaved by the Uzita tribe. He eventually escaped and joined the friendlier Mocoso.

During his adventures Ortiz had learned the Timucuan language, which was to prove very useful for de Soto. He had also assimilated into the Native American culture, and even after joining the expedition as an interpreter, Ortiz refused to wear European clothes and preferred the company of locals, which caused some suspicion among his compatriots.

His value to the party as they traversed the Timucuan-speaking areas of La Florida

**2,500**

Approximate number of Native Americans killed at the Battle of Mabila



was immense, however, and he further recruited guides from local tribes as they travelled, including a multilingual teenager called Perico, who stayed with the expedition for an extended time.

However, while the reception from the Mocoso had been relatively hospitable, and communication was possible through Ortiz, the Spanish weren't warmly welcomed by many of the local tribes. Like Narváez before him, de Soto found his party harassed by guerrilla attacks and subjected to ambushes as they travelled north along Florida's west coast.

The party rested and made overwinter camp at Anhaica on the Florida Panhandle. This was the capital of the Apalachee people, and was close to the Bay of Horses, where Cabeza de Vaca and the other bedraggled survivors of the Narváez expedition had lived on the flesh of their steeds while building the rafts they so desperately hoped would get them to Mexico.

### THE BATTLE OF MABILA

The Spanish were stirred from their winter hibernation by reports of gold in the direction of the sunrise. They broke camp and began travelling northeast, through modern-day Georgia and South Carolina, where a female chief called Cofitachequi welcomed them in, and even offered gifts of pearls and food. This was insufficient to sate the treasure lust of the conquistadors, however, so they continued their search for gold further north in North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains.

De Soto's precise route from here is unclear. It's possible he entered northern Georgia, but some historians believe he traversed the Tennessee River and reached modern-day Alabama from the north.

## THE MAIN PLAYERS

### HERNANDO DE SOTO

Born into low-level nobility in 1500, de Soto forged a highly successful career as a conquistador in South and Central America, before risking it all on a doomed expedition to North America.

### JUAN ORTIZ

A member of the group sent to find survivors of the Narváez expedition, Ortiz was captured and enslaved by the Uzita tribe. He escaped and spent years living with the Mocoso people, adopting Native American ways. De Soto employed him as an interpreter.

### LUIS DE MOSCOSO ALVARADO

Following the death of de Soto from a fever, Moscoso took over leadership of the expedition and led the survivors down the Mississippi River and back to Spanish settlements on the outskirts of Mexico.

### TUSKALOOSA

A Native American chief who held power in a region located in the modern state of Alabama. An unusually large man, he led de Soto into a deadly trap, which sparked the bloody Battle of Mabila and changed the course of the expedition.

# GEOGRAPHY

The exact route taken by de Soto is the subject of much debate. Smithsonian Institution anthropologist John R Swanton's theory, formulated in the 1930s, is often used as the basis for maps purporting to show the expedition's course, but this 'Swanton Route' is now widely thought to contain errors. A more generally accepted route, based on modern methods and the written accounts of expedition members, came in the 1970s from University of Georgia anthropologist Charles Hudson.

**CAMP OUT**  
Huts built in the Conquistador style



## 1 MAY 1539 Tampa Bay

With a young and cosmopolitan fighting force, numbering over 600 and averaging 24 years of age, plus priests, tradesmen, farmers and their families, most of whom have never been much beyond their local village, de Soto lands in La Florida.

## 2 WINTER 1539 Anhaica (now Tallahassee, Florida)

After battling his way along Florida's west coast, de Soto overwinters near the principal town of the Apalachee people.

## 3 1540 Southeast America

From the Florida Panhandle, the expedition travels through terrain that now falls in the US states of Georgia, South and North

Carolina, Tennessee and possibly Alabama, searching fruitlessly for gold and having encounters both friendly and hostile with native tribes.

## 4 18 OCTOBER 1540 Mabila (close to present-day Selma, Alabama)

De Soto is lured into a trap at the false township of Mabila by Chief Tuskaloosa and a bloody battle ensues with thousands of lives lost. Although victorious, de Soto's expedition plans are in tatters, and he turns away from the coast and a planned meeting with resupply ships.

## 5 SPRING 1541 Tupelo, Mississippi

After overwintering with the Chickasaw, de Soto demands 200 men as porters. Enraged, the Chickasaw refuse and attack the Spanish camp during the night, killing 40 men and dispersing the Europeans.

## 6 8 MAY 1541 Near Memphis, Tennessee

De Soto's expedition meets the Mississippi River. Over a month later, on 28 June, they become the first Europeans to cross the mighty waterway, fending off attacks from Native Americans.

## 7 OCTOBER 1541 Near present-day Fort Smith in Sebastian County

After wandering around on both sides of the Arkansas River, the expedition is engaged in battle by the ferocious Tula tribe. Survivors overwinter in Little Rock and then head back towards the Mississippi River.

## 8 21 MAY 1542 Guachoya (near modern-day Lake Village in Chicot County, Arkansas)

De Soto dies from a fever, and Moscoso assumes leadership of the expedition. The party attempts to

travel west overland through Louisiana and Texas towards Mexico, but is forced back to the Mississippi by inhospitable terrain.

## 9 JUNE 1543 Mouth of the Mississippi

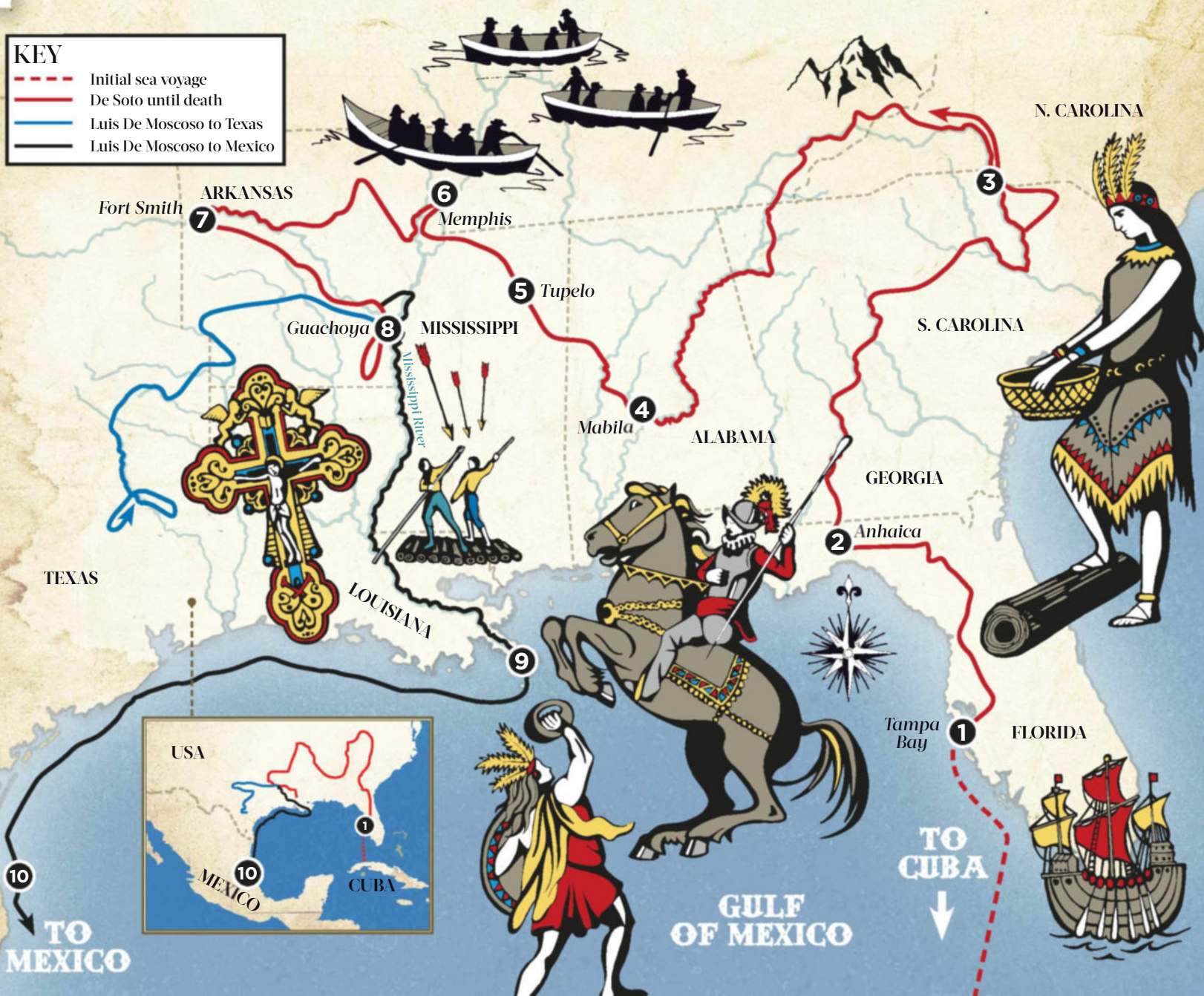
Having overwintered on the banks of the river, and sat out the spring floods, the party travels down the length of the Mississippi on roughly constructed boats, pursued and attacked all the way by hostile tribes both in canoes and shooting arrows from the banks.

## 10 10 SEPTEMBER 1543 Pánuco, Mexico

After hugging the coast while travelling west along the Gulf of Mexico, the surviving members of the expedition finally reach an outlying Spanish settlement.

**KEY**

- Initial sea voyage
- De Soto until death
- Luis De Moscoso to Texas
- Luis De Moscoso to Mexico





## THE INCREDIBLE ESCAPADES OF CABEZA DE VACA

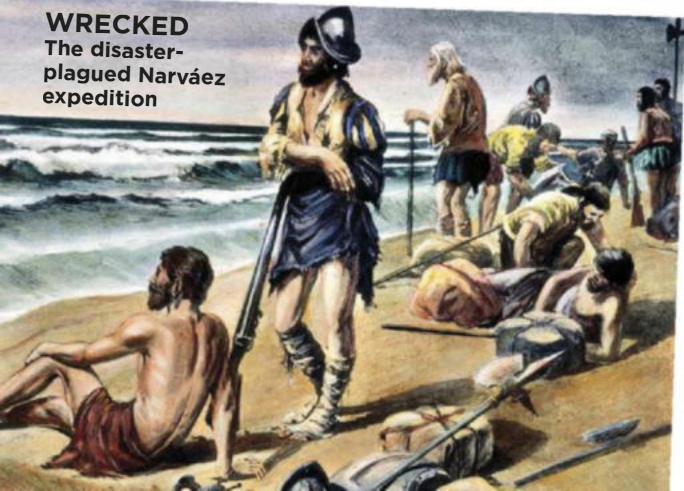
De Soto was not the first European to explore La Florida – fellow Spaniard Juan Ponce de León discovered and named the peninsula in 1513. Then in 1527, another Spaniard, Pánfilo de Narváez, led a 600-man expedition back to Florida on a mission to conquer and colonise the region. Among his crew was one Álgar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, serving as treasurer and marshal.

From the start, the expedition was plagued by problems. Narváez travelled via Hispaniola, where 150 men promptly deserted, and Cuba, where several ships were lost in a hurricane. Arriving in Tampa Bay in April 1528, Narváez claimed the land for Spain. Against Cabeza de Vaca's advice, he then split the party, with 300 men setting out for the city of Apalachen, which locals told them was full of food and gold. The overland journey was a disaster, with men constantly being picked off by Native American attackers and getting bogged down in swamps because of their heavy armour. At Apalachen they discovered there was no gold. At Aute, another supposedly rich settlement, they again found no gold and suffered more deaths.

Eventually retreating to the coast, the survivors were forced to eat their remaining horses to avoid starvation. They then melted down the horseshoes to forge nails, which were used to build rafts for a desperate attempt to sail to Mexico. At the mouth of the Mississippi the rafts were swept out to sea and separated, before being hit by horrendous hurricanes. Several disappeared without trace, with the loss of many men – including Narváez. Two rafts survived, along with about 80 men, who became wrecked on Galveston Island (in modern-day Texas), which they named the Island of Doom. Only 15 lived through the following winter. Eventually they managed to roughly repair the rafts, only to get wiped out by large waves. Some made it to the mainland, where they were enslaved by a series of tribes including the Hans, Capoques, Karankawa and Coahuiltecan.

With the last four survivors, Cabeza de Vaca managed to escape. For eight years they travelled on foot across Texas, Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona and California, before finally reaching Mexico City. En route he learned native languages and became an effective trader and healer. He eventually returned to Spain, where he wrote about his adventures in a book that inspired de Soto to embark on his own, similarly disastrous, expedition.

**WRECKED**  
The disaster-plagued Narváez expedition



The expedition certainly spent some time within the Coosa chiefdom, a powerful Native American settlement near Gordon and Murray counties in Georgia, before heading south towards the Gulf of Mexico, where a planned rendezvous was due to take place with two ships travelling from Havana with fresh supplies. But, en route to the coast, a bloody battle changed everything.

The expedition encountered a powerful local chief called Tuskaloosa in his home village of Atahachi. When de Soto demanded porters and women from Tuskaloosa, he refused, and the Spaniard took him hostage. Apparently relenting, the chief told de Soto he would provide him with everything he wanted, but he had to travel to another village, called Mabila.

When the Spanish arrived, however, they discovered they'd walked into a trap. Mabila was a fortified false village full of well-armed warriors. De Soto's men struggled to fight their way out and then, to exact revenge, they returned and set the city ablaze. A terrible nine-hour battle erupted, during which thousands of tribesmen were slaughtered by the Spanish, with their superior weaponry, and at least 200 of de Soto's men were killed and hundreds more grievously wounded.

This was no victory for de Soto. Besides the death of a third of his men, most of his equipment and a quarter of the expedition's horses had also been lost, and they were now completely surrounded by hostile natives.

Fearing that news of this near-failure would reach Spain if he continued on to meet the resupply ships, de Soto made a fateful decision. He turned the remains of his party around and travelled away from the Gulf Coast into modern-day Mississippi, where they overwintered near Tupelo, making first contact with the Chickasaw people.

### MISSISSIPPI BLUES

After staying alongside the Chickasaw, de Soto had the temerity to demand 200 of their men

to act as porters. The tribe rejected his requests and, enraged, attacked the Spanish camp during the night, killing 40 more men. De Soto beat a hasty retreat, losing the rest of his equipment in the process.

The party was now in tatters, but they pushed on and met the Mississippi in May 1541. It's sometimes claimed de Soto was the first European to sight this river, but Alonso Álvarez de Pineda had sailed 20 miles upstream from the Mississippi mouth in 1519, and Cabeza de Vaca

### RUTHLESS QUEST

BELOW: De Soto's army brutally attacked several tribes, including the Calusas RIGHT: Juan Ortiz is captured by the Uzita MAIN: Arriving at the Mississippi in 1541.

De Soto is the first European to ever cross it FAR BELOW: De Soto dies of a fever and his shrouded body is consigned to the river





“In tatters,  
they pushed  
on and  
**met the  
Mississippi.**”



**311**

Number of survivors  
from the estimated 700  
people who set out  
on de Soto's  
expedition

had drifted past its estuary on a raft a decade earlier.

De Soto was much further inland, though, and he was the first European to attempt a crossing of the mighty flow. This was successfully achieved on 28 June 1541, after a month spent constructing floats to transport 400 people across the broad expanse of water. It was no easy feat – many of the men were injured, and the river was patrolled by native warriors, understandably hostile to the violent Europeans encroaching on their lands.

The crossing possibly took place near the confluence with the Arkansas River, or perhaps somewhere further north, close to modern-day Memphis, Tennessee (historians still debate the exact location). Once on the far bank, de Soto continued wandering west, encountering terrible swamps on a somewhat erratic and much-argued-about route that's generally accepted as having passed through territory that now falls in the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

One theory, known as the Swanton Route, sees de Soto heading into the Ouachita Mountains and following the Ouachita River south into Louisiana. It's also been claimed that he was the first European to encounter the sacred spot with healing water known to Native Americans as the Valley of the Vapours (modern-day Hot Springs), which tribes traditionally treated as a peaceful area regardless of any disputes between them – but these assertions were made by a historian with a commercial interest in popularising Hot Springs as a tourist destination in the 1930s.

The most-accepted route has the expedition travelling north of the Arkansas River, before crossing over and possibly going as far south as the Caddo River. A violent clash with a tribe called Tula took place in October 1541, possibly near present-day Fort Smith in Sebastian County. By this stage Juan Ortiz had died and the Spanish had lost their ability to communicate with the Native Americans, which led to food shortages and more skirmishes. The Tula battle was particularly bruising, with reports describing the tribe as fierce and skilful warriors.

After spending a hard winter somewhere south of the Arkansas River, probably near present-day Little Rock, Arkansas, the party began to head back towards the Mississippi River. However, on 21 May 1542, the expedition was decapitated when de Soto died of a fever at a village called Guachoya – believed to be near modern-day Lake Village in Chicot County, Arkansas (but also variously claimed to be McArthur, further north in Arkansas, or somewhere south, in Louisiana).

His demise left the remaining men with a big problem. Not only had they lost their leader, but de Soto had also encouraged many native chiefs to believe that he was an immortal sun god, in an attempt to appease them, and his death rather detracted from that claim. For this reason, his body was disposed of discreetly (probably weighted down and thrown in the Mississippi River), and the expedition – now under the command of de Soto's lieutenant Luis de Moscoso Alvarado – had to decide what to do next. 📍

## GET HOOKED

### READ

*Hernando de Soto: a Savage Quest in the Americas* (1997)  
by David E Duncan

### VISIT

De Soto National Memorial, near Bradenton in Florida, which marks the possible location of Espíritu Santo, the landing point for de Soto's expedition. Alternatively, cross the mighty Mississippi on Hernando de Soto Bridge, which carries Interstate 40 across the river at Memphis



## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Low on supplies and morale, and with half their number dead and many more injured, the survivors abandoned the expedition and began heading for the Spanish settlements in Mexico. Initially, Moscoso led the party overland west, but the terrain was brutal and they encountered few villages. Returning to the Mississippi, they spent winter melting metal for nails and constructing seven bergantines (boats) before setting off down the river. They faced constant attacks from native tribes, who pursued them in canoes and fired arrows from the banks, killing 11 of their number. Eventually they reached the river mouth and travelled west for another 50 days until finally reaching the Spanish frontier town of Pánuco. Less than half of the 700 members of the original expedition returned. They'd found no gold, nor set up any form of colony. But, quite by accident, they'd sowed the seeds of destruction – by exposing them to western diseases, the Spaniards brought about the collapse of the region's indigenous societies.

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#### CROWNING GLORY

Nefertiti can often be recognised by her distinctive 'cap crown', which would have been blue and gold with a Uraeus (cobra) above the brow

THE HISTORY MAKERS  
NEFERTITI

# SECRETS OF EGYPT'S LOST QUEEN

Nefertiti ruled alongside her husband Pharaoh Akhenaten over a time of revolution, only to vanish from history. **Jonny Wilkes** investigates the mysteries of the timeless beauty

ART ARCHIVE XI, GETTY XI

**S**he stood, as wife of the pharaoh, at the apex of a dramatic religious revolution in Egypt, which dismissed the traditional gods of several millennia and replaced them with a single deity. She ruled from a new capital, built by her husband Akhenaten away from the intrigue of Thebes in order to centralise authority around the royal couple. She became the muse for radical artistic and cultural changes, meaning we see her today unlike any woman who came before, or even after. She is still lauded as one of history's great beauties – her name, after all, means 'a beautiful woman has come'. She is Nefertiti, perhaps one of Ancient Egypt's most important and influential female rulers.

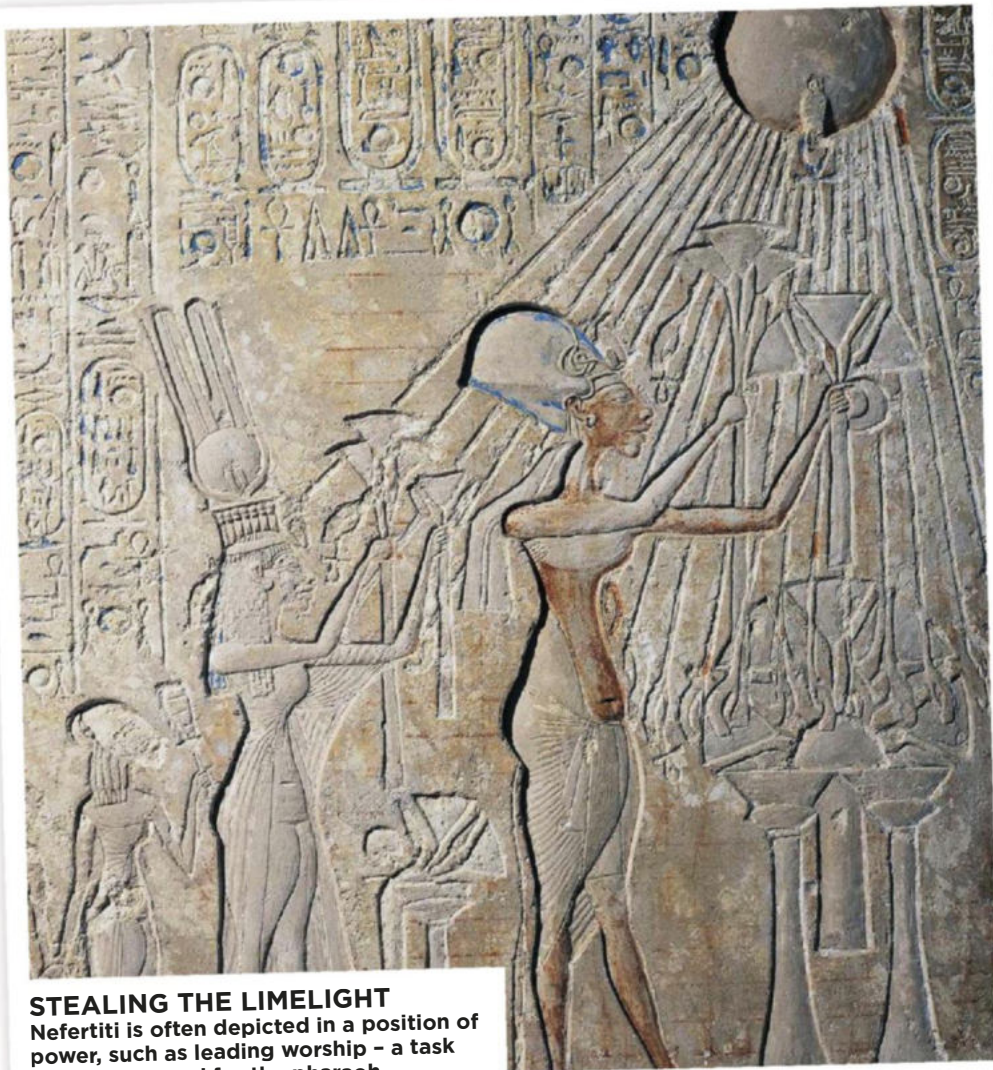
Thanks to the bust found in 1912, her face is recognised around the world and has become a symbol of her ancient civilisation, alongside Tutankhamun's death mask. Yet beyond her limestone gaze, Nefertiti's life, death and afterlife continue to bamboozle historians and archaeologists, who wonder if they will ever uncover the secrets of Egypt's lost queen.

The mysteries of Nefertiti begin with her very origins, more than 3,300 years ago during the



A scene in an Amarna tomb shows Nefertiti driving a chariot alone, suggesting a strengthened position

**“Far from just being a trophy wife, Nefertiti appears to have been actively involved in her husband's rule”**



**STEALING THE LIMELIGHT**  
Nefertiti is often depicted in a position of power, such as leading worship – a task usually reserved for the pharaoh

18th dynasty. While one theory suggests that she may have been the daughter of a court adviser, Ay, who would go on to become pharaoh, there are some who claim that she wasn't born in Egypt at all. It is argued that Nefertiti could have been a teenage princess from Mitanni (modern-day Syria), sent to the kingdom to be married to an Egyptian prince, named Amenhotep IV when he succeeded the throne in c1353 BC.

In the first decade of their marriage, Nefertiti gave birth to six daughters – artists flaunted her fertility in the many stone wall reliefs of her – and there is reason to believe Amenhotep held genuine affection for his queen. He could hardly be deemed a loyal, monogamous husband, as he took other wives (including his own sister, which was far from unusual, and possibly some of his own daughters too), but he named Nefertiti as the 'Great Royal Wife'. Some other titles bestowed on her included, 'Lady of All Women', 'Sweet of Love', 'Great of Praises' and 'Lady of Grace', and in another gesture of his love, Amenhotep dedicated a temple in Karnak to his queen. The surviving artworks of the couple certainly portray a loving relationship, with them kissing in public, and one of Nefertiti sitting on Akhenaten's knee.

Far from just being a trophy wife, however, Nefertiti appears to have been actively involved in her husband's rule, and this only increased when he made the bold decision to challenge the gods.

### RELIGIOUS REVOLUTION

The Egyptians worshipped thousands of gods, many of whom had their own temples and priests where offerings, sacrifices and rituals could be made. By the time Amenhotep became

## A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN HAS COME

### THE FACE OF NEFERTITI

“Suddenly we had in our hands the most alive Egyptian artwork. You cannot describe it with words. You must see it.” So read the diary of German archaeologist Ludwig Borchardt after his discovery, on 6 December 1912, of the now world-famous bust of Nefertiti. Found buried upside down at the desert ruins of Amarna, in the ancient workshop of the royal sculptor Thutmose, the limestone bust captures Nefertiti’s timeless beauty – so much so that it now ranks as one of the most perfect faces of all time.

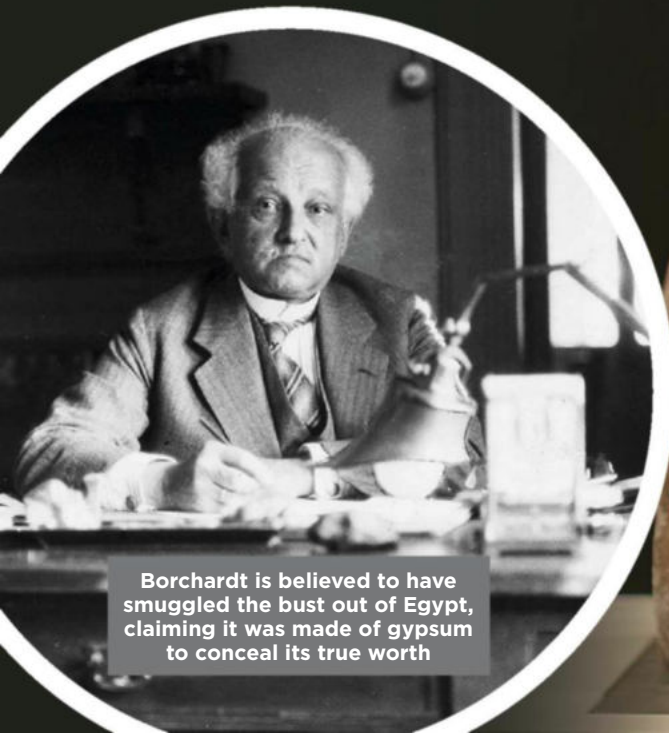
Her slender neck, high cheekbones, elegantly arched eyebrows and red lips – all while looking regal in her distinctive blue crown – ensured that Nefertiti is remembered as the ‘beautiful woman’ of her name, despite missing one of her quartz eyes. However, recent CT scans may change that picture, as it seems Thutmose covered over an earlier, less-flattering layer of stucco. It had a slightly bumped nose and wrinkles around the eyes.

The bust caused a sensation when it first went on display in Berlin in the early 1920s, as Ancient Egypt was all the rage in the aftermath of Howard Carter’s discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb. It stayed in Germany, but during World War II, it had to be hidden in bunkers and a salt mine to keep it safe. Adolf Hitler adored the prized artefact, describing it as a “unique masterpiece, an ornament, a true treasure.” He declared he would build a museum for it, responding to Egyptian authorities requesting its return: “I will never relinquish the head of the Queen.”

In the near century since going on display, Egypt has continually demanded the bust be sent back, claiming that Borchardt hid its true value so he wouldn’t have to hand it over to local authorities.



CT scans have revealed that Nefertiti may be the first woman to have been ‘airbrushed’



Borchardt is believed to have smuggled the bust out of Egypt, claiming it was made of gypsum to conceal its true worth

pharaoh, the cult of the supreme deity Amun had grown powerful and wealthy around the kingdom, with their centre at the capital in Thebes. The influence of these priests not only threatened his authority but undermined his worship of the little-known god Aten, the 'sun disc'. So in the fifth year of his reign, the Pharaoh laid down the law with major and controversial changes to religious practices dating back thousands of years.

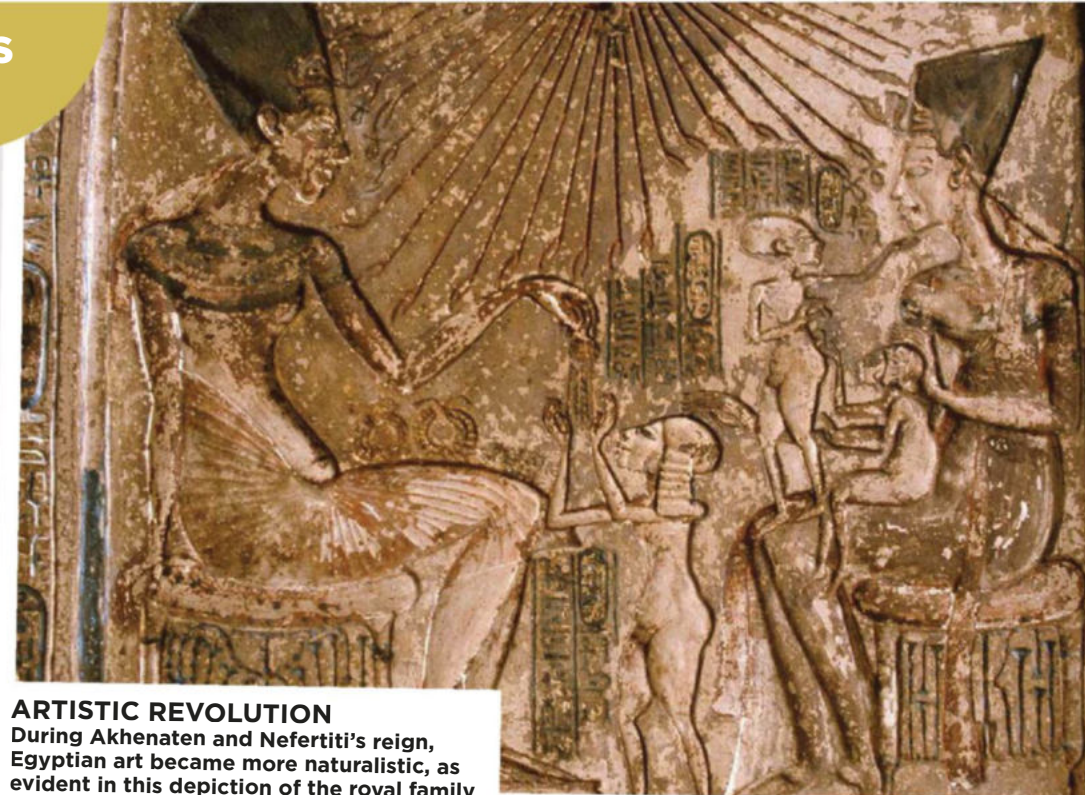
His religious revolution deposed the traditional gods and announced the Aten to be the one god worthy of worship. As a sign of devotion, he changed his name to Akhenaten, meaning 'beneficial to Aten', and ordered that a new capital be built in the desert as a centre of his cult. The city of Akhetaten, or Amarna, separated him from the old gods, all left behind some 200 miles to the south in Thebes, and symbolised a rebirth for himself. He wanted a new capital for his new religion, to go along with his new name. To that purpose, the centrepiece of Amarna was a mighty open-air temple – the Aten had to be worshipped in the sunlight, compared to the dingy rooms seen in the temples of the now-defunct gods.

Atenism heralded a dramatic break from polytheism, and it became only more pronounced in the following years. In his ninth regnal year, Akhenaten declared the Aten to be the only god (although there is still uncertainty over whether he actually denied the existence of the other gods), and that he and Nefertiti formed the only direct connection between the Aten and his people. He went as far as trying to erase the god Amun completely by repressing the cult and closing down the temples.

Not all Egyptians embraced the Aten, however, which led to quiet discontent around the kingdom, but Akhenaten's opponents had no option but to wait for him to die before they could try and salvage the old ways. As for Nefertiti, she stood by her husband's side, having also altered her name to add 'Neferneferuaten' to the beginning – her full name now meant 'beautiful are the beauties of Aten, a beautiful woman has come' – and she soon found herself at the heart of another radical change.

## POWERS OF THE PHARAOH

From the young city of Amarna, where a greater sense of freedom may have bloomed, art transformed from the rigid, stylised figures we still associate with Ancient Egypt. This could have been down to Akhenaten's decree banning



### ARTISTIC REVOLUTION

During Akhenaten and Nefertiti's reign, Egyptian art became more naturalistic, as evident in this depiction of the royal family

**“Nefertiti simply vanished from the records, leading some to state that she died suddenly from a plague ravaging Egypt”**

idols of the Aten – the only representation allowed was of a sun. So the focus of carved wall reliefs had to move away from idealised depictions of deities and, instead, showed the royal family of Akhenaten, Nefertiti and their children in more naturalistic poses, basking in the rays of the Aten.

The number of images we now have of Nefertiti is unusually high for a woman in Ancient Egypt, suggesting that Akhenaten intended future generations to consider her a crucial part of his reign from a political perspective, as well as personal. It's not just how often she appears, though, but what she's doing that hints at Nefertiti's influence.

She is seen performing actions expected of a pharaoh, such as leading worship, racing chariots and the ritual of smiting Egypt's enemies, and as she is regularly wearing her now-distinctive headdress, Nefertiti was

made to look like a powerful co-ruler rather than a doting wife.

## THE QUEEN VANISHES

And then it stopped. In the 12th year of Akhenaten's reign, Nefertiti simply vanished from the records, leading some historians to state that she died suddenly from a plague ravaging Egypt around the time. A far more intriguing theory claims that Nefertiti became Akhenaten's official co-ruler for the latter years of his reign. The 'Coregency Stela', seven fragments of limestone tablets, depicts Akhenaten, Nefertiti and one of their daughters, but Nefertiti's name has been chiselled out and replaced with 'Ankhkheperure Neferneferuaten', a possible candidate for

Akhenaten's co-ruler. This name, in turn, matches the one Nefertiti gave herself.

It makes for a compelling argument, but it has proven extremely difficult to piece together the timeline of the end of Akhenaten's reign, c1336–34 BC. That is partly down to the backlash felt in Egypt in the wake of his death against his religious changes. According to the extraordinary



The Amarna letters reveal a breakdown in relations between Egypt and Mitanni during this period

**48**  
the height, in centimetres, of Nefertiti's bust. The limestone artefact weighs around 20 kilograms

MICHELLE MORAN, author of *Nefertiti*  
**“She was the Cleopatra of her time. Just as beautiful, just as wealthy, and just as powerful – if not more powerful”**



find of the 'Amarna letters', hundreds of clay tablets relating Egypt's diplomacy with other nations during Akhenaten's reign, he had grown obsessed with Atenism, at the expense of matters of state. Many Egyptians had never been happy with the sacrilegious dealings of their pharaoh anyway, and so quickly rejected the Aten, which allowed the former priests to regain power and bring the old gods with them. Certainly bold and revolutionary, but Akhenaten's religious experiment ultimately proved a failure.

His successors – among them his son (thought to be Nefertiti's stepson), Tutankhamun – denounced Akhenaten as a heretic and even attempted to expunge his name from the lists of pharaohs. What's more, Amarna was abandoned and left to fall into ruin just decades after its construction. The immediate desecration and the passage of more than three millennia mean that much of the evidence has been lost.

But a recent discovery of an inscription, found buried in a limestone quarry, has strongly suggested that Nefertiti still lived in Akenaten's 16th year, giving some credence to the theory that she became his co-regent. There are some who go further than this and believe Nefertiti to be the identity of an even later pharaoh, named Smenkhkare, despite the fact that he is depicted as a man. Such are the mysteries surrounding the end of her life.

## HOTLY DEBATED

There is so much that we don't know, and may never discover, about Nefertiti. We don't know when or where she was born, how much effective power she wielded in her husband's reign, when she died or where she is buried. Yet there is no questioning the significance of Nefertiti in the pantheon of great female rulers of antiquity. While another Egyptian ruler, Cleopatra, is a more readily recognised name, she ruled over a declining Egypt, falling under the yoke of Rome, whereas Nefertiti lived at the height of the kingdom's power.

And if it weren't for two game-changing archaeological finds in the 20th century, we wouldn't even know as much as we do. It is ironic that the first, Nefertiti's bust, made the queen we know so little about one of the most recognisable faces from antiquity, with half a million people visiting the Neues Museum in Berlin every year to see her. The second find came nine years later, in 1922, when Howard Carter peeked inside Tutankhamun's tomb. The Boy King's relation to Nefertiti is still a hotly debated issue – with some thinking that she is, in fact, his mother – but Carter's find helped unlock some of the secrets of the latter 18th dynasty, and may have more to reveal. The digging for these long-lost truths continues. ☉

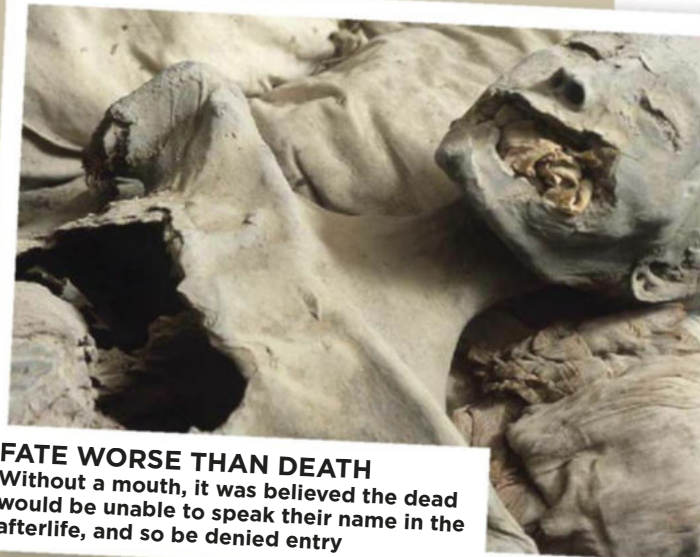
## WHERE IS NEFERTITI?

If Nefertiti's life was mysterious, that's nothing compared to her afterlife...

### THE YOUNGER LADY

Some historians believe Nefertiti has already been found and currently lies in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. French archaeologist Victor Loret discovered the 'Younger Lady' mummy at a tomb, designated KV35, in the Valley of the Kings in 1898, but it wouldn't be until 2003 that archaeologist Joann Fletcher of the University of York declared it could be Nefertiti. She based her conclusion on a number of factors, although all circumstantial. Firstly, the mouth has been damaged and an arm removed, which could suggest desecration for her sacrilegious involvement in the cult of Aten. A wig of a style worn during Akhenaten's reign was also found in the tomb and fits the Younger Lady. Then there was the fact that the mummy had two piercings in her left ear – a rare thing in Ancient Egypt, but can clearly be seen in images of Nefertiti – and nefer beads on her chest that were the same type seen on Nefertiti's bust. Fletcher's belief is not universally accepted, however, and some claim that the Younger Lady is actually male.

It has been suggested that Tutankhamun is in fact the son of Nefertiti and Akhenaten



**FATE WORSE THAN DEATH**  
Without a mouth, it was believed the dead would be unable to speak their name in the afterlife, and so be denied entry

### TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB

In 2015, British Egyptologist Dr Nicholas Reeves made headlines by announcing his belief that Nefertiti was buried in a secret chamber in the tomb of Tutankhamun. He claimed scans of one of the walls gave apposite signs of a void behind it, where the 14th-century BC queen remains entombed. As the Boy King died unexpectedly, Reeves argued that his body may have been rushed into someone else's tomb, which would explain why Tut's is on the small side. The theory has received criticism from other historians, but it does demonstrate the enduring fascination with Nefertiti and finding her mummy.



### BEYOND THE WALLS

Experts have been using radar to search Tutankhamun's tomb for a secret chamber, which some believe to be Nefertiti's final resting place.



Did Nefertiti rule as pharaoh after her husband?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

# THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND

Like Amin and the 'royal' title he claimed, the film grasps reality somewhat loosely. Fact-based fiction may tell a good story, but it can distract from the crucial messages, says **Jonny Wilkes**

**A**fter watching Kevin Macdonald's hard-hitting *The Last King of Scotland*, it wouldn't be surprising if many were left thinking, "Wow, did that really happen? Did a young Scottish doctor really find himself at the heart of Idi Amin's Ugandan regime, fall for one of his wives, remain naive to the worst of the dictator's atrocities and, when facing certain death, make a daring escape by sneaking onto a plane?" Well, unfortunately, no. The story is too good to be true, grounded in Giles Foden's novel rather than fact.

This film – while a gripping, performance-driven thriller – is another culprit of stretching the 'based on a true story' tag a bit beyond credulity. There are details from the events in Uganda during Amin's reign, 1971 to 1979, but action centres around James McAvoy's Dr Nicholas Garrigan, a fictionalised foil, there to provide a western perspective on African politics. In fact, if it wasn't for the ferocious Oscar-winning turn by Forest Whitaker, Amin himself could have been sidelined as a secondary character, which would hardly tally with his reputation as a sadistic, mass-murdering dictator.

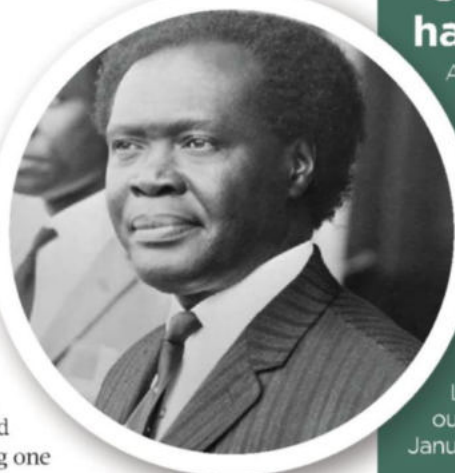
## WARNING SIGNS

What *The Last King of Scotland* doesn't show is how Amin rose to a position to seize power in the first place. With

Uganda being a protectorate of Britain, the young Amin's military career began in the King's African Rifles of the British Colonial Army, where he served as an assistant cook. His officers remembered Amin as uneducated and illiterate – he needed help opening a bank account for his wages – but powerfully built, at well over six feet tall, and a good soldier. He secured several promotions, becoming one of only two Ugandan soldiers at the rank of commissioned officer, yet Amin gained a reputation for violence and cruelty. In signs of what was to come, he tortured for information and would kill suspects intended for arrest.

## HEAVY-HANDED

By the time Uganda achieved independence in 1962, Amin had bullied his way into a strong position close to the new Prime Minister, Milton Obote, who was hardly adverse himself to using heavy-handed or corrupt methods. But, after years of a seemingly mutual relationship, Amin heard Obote intended to have him arrested for pocketing military funds, so led a relatively bloodless coup on 25 January 1971. According to *The Last King of Scotland*, this is the same time that Amin injured his hand in a car



## "Something hateful and vile"

ABOVE: Forest Whitaker as the Ugandan dictator. In *The New York Times* review, Manohla Dargis wrote: "It's a role rich in gristle and blood, and Mr Whitaker makes the most of it. But what you need in a film about **a man who fed the corpses of his victims to the crocodiles** is something more, something hateful and vile."

LEFT: Milton Obote, who was ousted as President of Uganda in January 1971 via a coup led by Amin.

## FILMOLOGY

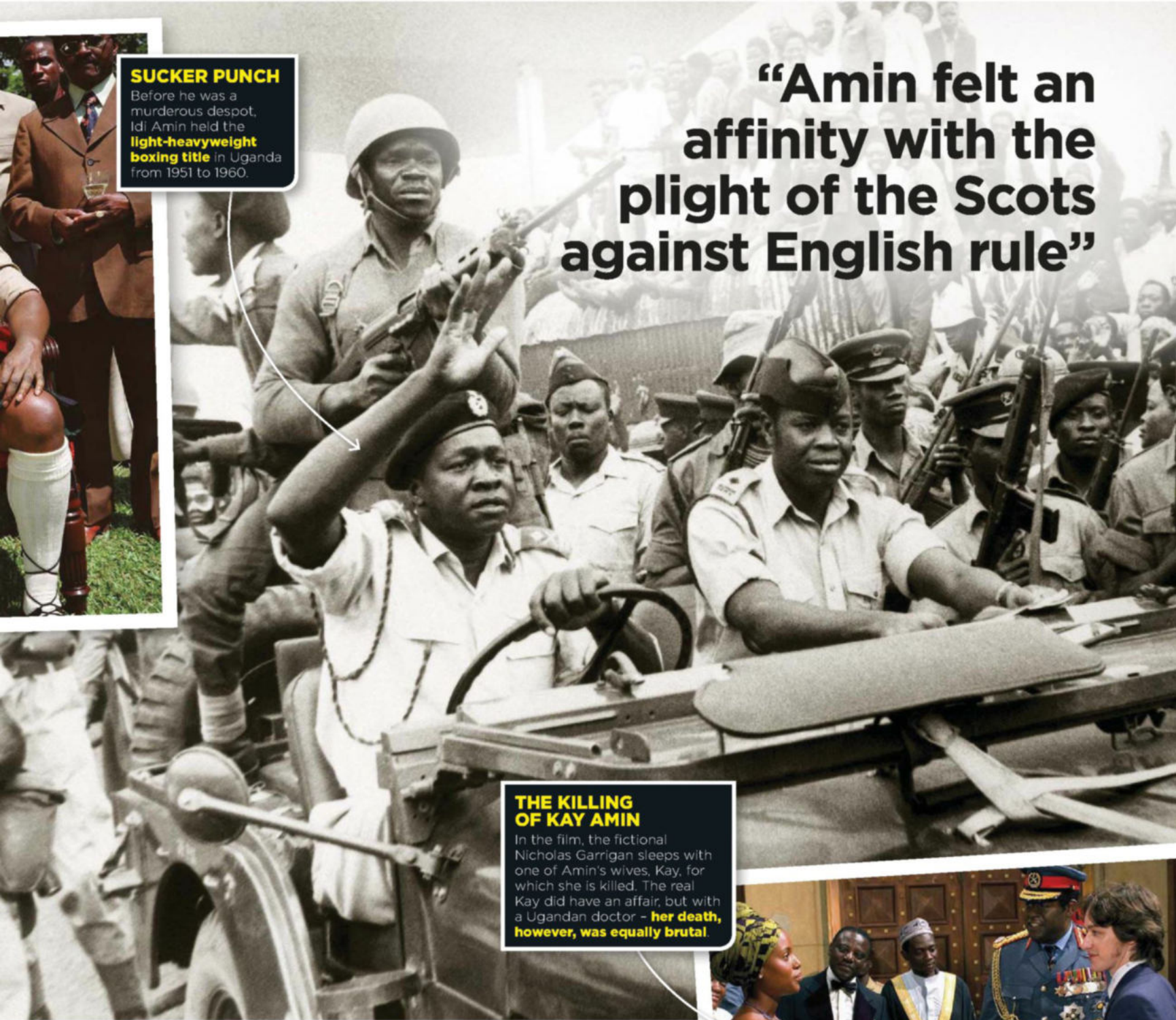
**Release date:** 2006  
**Director:**

Kevin Macdonald  
**Cast:**  
Forest Whitaker,  
James McAvoy,  
Kerry Washington,  
Gillian Anderson,  
David Oyelowo,  
Simon McBurney

**Fast fact:** To prepare for his role as Amin, Forest Whitaker learned Swahili, met members of Amin's family and stayed in character during production. Once filming was over, Whitaker had a long shower to "wash him off".

accident with a cow and was treated by the passing doctor Garrigan, who he befriended due to his love of all things Scottish. Most Ugandans despised Obote and so welcomed Amin's coup with joy, taking to the streets and cheering. The international community equally celebrated as they hoped that this change would bring a more peaceful and less corrupt reign to the country, something Amin encouraged by making gestures, such as freeing political prisoners and dismantling the secret police. Like the fictional Garrigan, people were won over by his occasional amiability, charisma and grand promises – but the pretence didn't last long.

Throughout his eight-year rule, Amin could demonstrate **buffoonish**



### SUCKER PUNCH

Before he was a murderous despot, Idi Amin held the **light-heavyweight boxing title** in Uganda from 1951 to 1960.

# “Amin felt an affinity with the plight of the Scots against English rule”

### THE KILLING OF KAY AMIN

In the film, the fictional Nicholas Garrigan sleeps with one of Amin's wives, Kay, for which she is killed. The real Kay did have an affair, but with a Ugandan doctor – **her death, however, was equally brutal.**

behaviour that belied his image as a murderous dictator. The full title he awarded himself, for example, was “His Excellency President for Life, Field Marshal Al Hadji Doctor Idi Amin, VC, DSO, MC, Lord of All the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Sea, and Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular”.

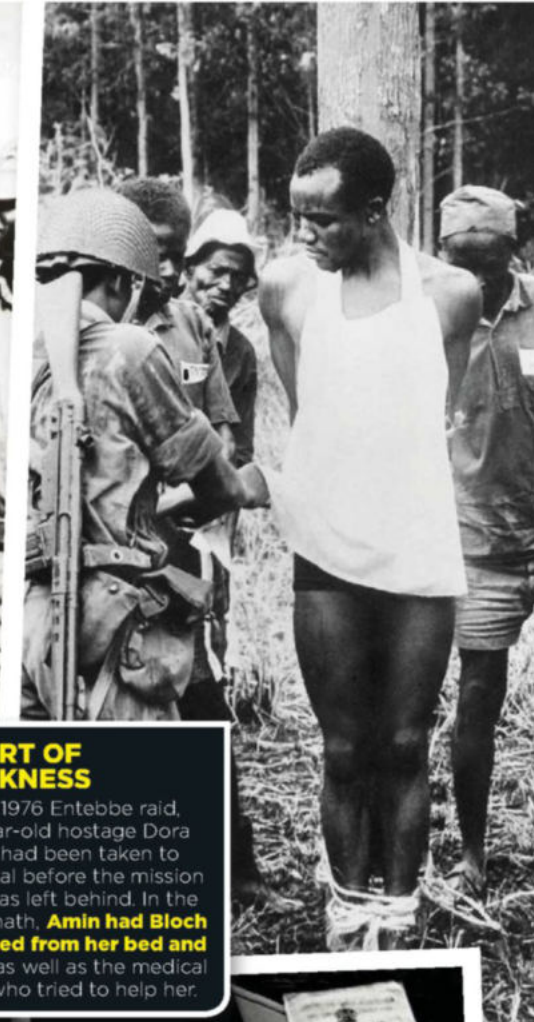
And it wasn't a Scottish doctor that gave Foden's novel and Macdonald's movie their title, but Amin himself. He felt an affinity with the plight of the Scots against English rule so named himself the 'Last King of Scotland', discussed raising an army for the cause of Scottish independence and gave some of his many sons names such as

## Amin's five wives: divorced, deserted and died

BOTTOM RIGHT: Amin with his final wife, Sarah, in 1975, who survived him and set up a hair salon in Tottenham. **He married at least five women** – his first and second wives, Malyamu and Kay in 1966, Nora in 1967 and Nalongo Madina in 1972. On 26 March 1974, he announced on Radio Uganda that he had divorced Malyamu, Nora and Kay. Malyamu moved to London, Nora fled to Zaire and Kay died in hospital in mysterious circumstances.



## THE REEL STORY THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND



### HEART OF DARKNESS

In the 1976 Entebbe raid, 75-year-old hostage Dora Bloch had been taken to hospital before the mission and was left behind. In the aftermath, **Amin had Bloch dragged from her bed and shot**, as well as the medical staff who tried to help her.

## “It’s not for me. I tried human flesh and it’s too salty for my taste”

ABOVE: Larger-than-life both physically and metaphorically, Amin possessed a brilliant sense of leadership as a performance and his PR was provocative. Smiling into cameras, he dropped verbal bombs alluding to cannibalism, autocracy and genocide. TOP RIGHT: A public execution by one of Amin’s death squads. BOTTOM RIGHT: Passports of dead victims. At one point, a dam in the Nile became clogged by bodies dumped in the river.



McKenzie and Mackintosh. He was all too happy to antagonise the English at any opportunity, even the Queen. He would send provocative, or downright insulting, telegrams to world leaders, but to Elizabeth II, Amin sent an invitation to Uganda so the Queen (or “Liz” as he addressed her) could meet a “real man”.

Yet Amin could swing from an eccentric to a sadistic tyrant at a moment’s notice. Shortly after his coup, he set about removing any remaining Obote supporters in deadly purges. The army was decimated in his first year, only to be rebuilt with young men from his own people, the Kakwa, and politicians would mysteriously disappear or end up dead in highly suspicious circumstances. The Acholi and Lango tribes were especially targeted by Amin’s death squads.

Soon, the people of Uganda grew to fear agencies established to quash opposition, with the sinister names of

Public Safety Unit and State Research Bureau. People were tortured and murdered in their thousands – at one point, a dam in the Nile became clogged by the bodies dumped in the river. Far from watching the brutality from afar, Amin revelled in the horrific violence. He kept photographs of victims (many bludgeoned by sledgehammers), fed corpses to crocodiles and was reported to be a cannibal, eating the flesh of his murdered enemies. An estimated 300,000 people died under Amin, dubbed the ‘Butcher of Uganda’.

### EXECUTIONS ON TV

The enemies Amin didn’t kill, he kicked out of the country. In 1972, he announced that everyone of Asian descent, around 60,000 people, had 90 days to leave Uganda, calling them “bloodsuckers”. In fact, the opposite was true, as many owned businesses and were significant contributors to the

nation’s income. The Ugandan economy plummeted with their expulsion and shops couldn’t supply staple foods, such as sugar, butter and salt, which led to an increase in black-market smuggling. Amin’s response: public, televised executions of anyone caught.

With each new horror and atrocity coming out of Uganda, Amin became a loathed figure around the world – a symbol of evil from a continent where dictators and regimes were all too common. He made his contempt for his international reputation clear in 1976 when he allowed a plane hijacked en route from Israel to France to land at his country’s Entebbe airport. With Amin directly involved in the crisis, the non-

### A REAL MAN

As well as insulting telegrams to the Queen inviting "Liz" to Uganda to meet a "real man" and **claiming to be the 'Conqueror of the British'**, Amin awarded himself the 'Victorious Cross', a medal to imitate the VC.

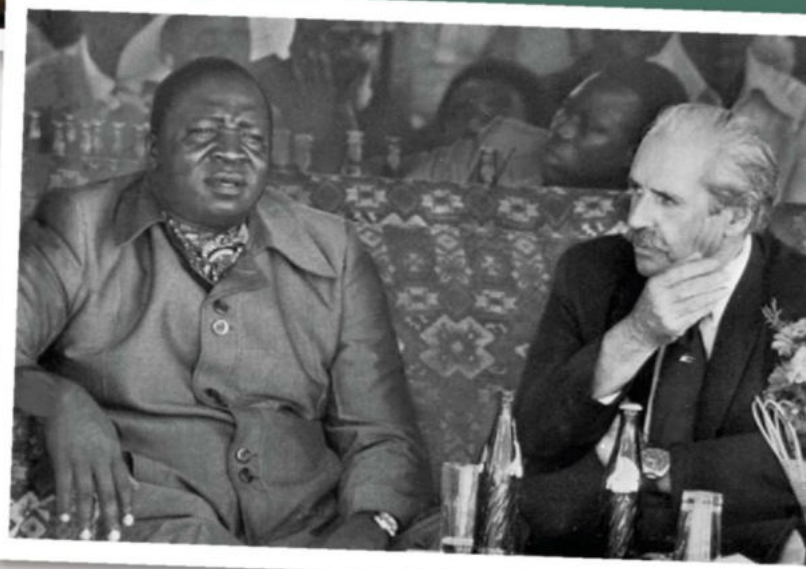


**"When the story of Amin's regime is so fascinating, and horrifying, it's a strange choice to hinge the film on something that didn't actually happen"**

LEFT: The film's action centres around James McAvoy's fictional Dr Nicholas Garrigan, presumably to provide a western perspective on African politics.

BELOW: Amin with his British aide Robert 'The White Rat' Astles, May 1978.

## "An estimated 300,000 people died under the 'Butcher of Uganda'"



Israeli hostages were freed but it took a crack team of Israeli commandos to get all but three of the remaining 103 out. Humiliated by the speed of the rescue mission, Amin took revenge by killing hundreds of Uganda-based Kenyans (the hostages had been taken to Kenya) and the final hostage, who had been taken to a nearby hospital.

### RAID ON ENTEBBE

The Entebbe raid is where *The Last King of Scotland* ends, with a tortured and bloodied Garrigan fleeing for his life aboard the plane filled with the hostages. That, in essence, sums up the problem with the film's focus on a fictional character – Garrigan's thrilling (but fictitious) escape distracts from real events. So much so, that people are left wondering whether he actually was based on a real person, and the far more important issues the film could raise are almost lost.

There may be a connection between the character of Garrigan and Bob Astles, a British soldier and member of Amin's inner circle (nicknamed the 'White Rat'), but he was a complicit

player. Throughout the film, meanwhile, the audience is asked to believe that Garrigan is ignorant of the extent of the atrocities, which means the true horrors seen in Uganda are far from explored and sympathies for the young doctor wane quickly.

Amin remained in power until 1979, when an ill-judged invasion of Tanzania backfired and the Ugandan forces – used to beating unarmed civilians – were overwhelmed. When Tanzanian troops neared the capital of Kampala, Amin fled. He lived in Saudi Arabia until his death in 2003, without ever facing justice.

*The Last King of Scotland* is well-made and is lucky to have such a striking performance by Whitaker, but when the story of Amin's regime is so fascinating, and horrifying, it's a strange choice to hinge the film on something that didn't actually happen. 🕒



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is there a film based on historical events you would like to see as our next 'Reel Story'?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

## Ones to watch: Enemies of the state

### *The Killing Fields*

(1984) Based on the real experiences of journalists Dith Pran and Sydney Schanberg, trapped in Cambodia during tyrant Pol Pot's bloody 'Year Zero' cleansing campaign, which claimed the lives of two million 'undesirable' civilians.



Haing S Ngor as Dith Pran in 1984's *The Killing Fields*

### *The Lives of Others*

(2006) Ulrich Muehe gives a heart-breaking performance as Captain Gerd Wiesler, an agent of the Stasi, East Germany's brutal secret police, sent to monitor a liberal writer. A must-watch.

### *The Devil's Double*

(2011) Bloody violence is all in a day's work for the son of Saddam Hussein (Dominic Cooper) and the man forced to be his double.

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# Q&A

## YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

**IN A NUTSHELL** p83 • **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** p84  
• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p86 • **WHAT IS IT?** p87

### OUR EXPERTS

#### EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



#### GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories* series and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)



#### JULIAN HUMPHRYS

Development Officer for The Battlefields Trust and author



#### SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



#### RUPERT MATTHEWS

Author on a range of historical subjects, from ancient to modern



#### MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



### NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Vexed by the Victorians? Muddled by the Middle Ages? Whatever your historical question, our expert panel has the answer.



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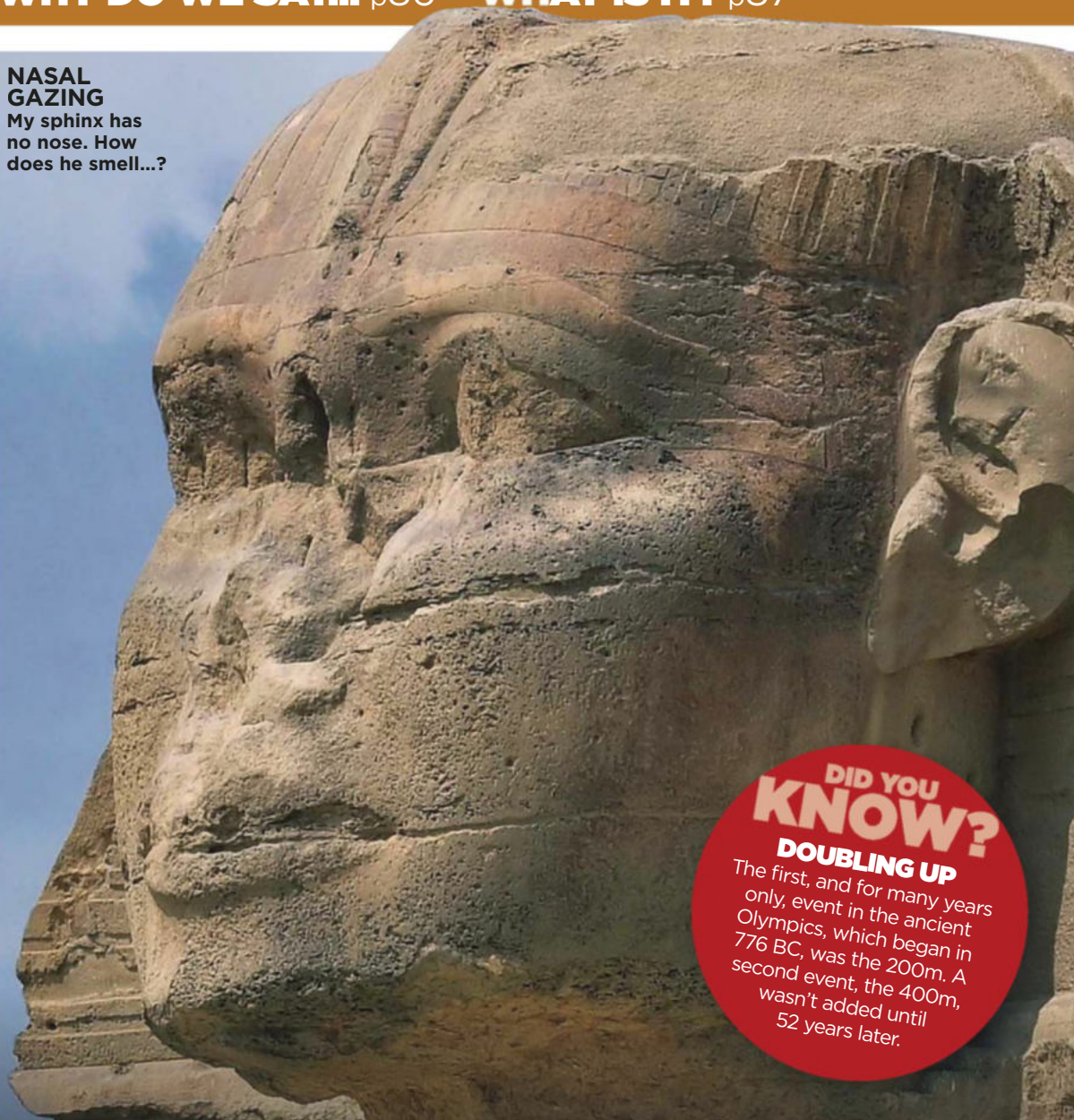


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revealed.com

**NASAL GAZING**  
My sphinx has no nose. How does he smell...?



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**DOUBLING UP**

The first, and for many years only, event in the ancient Olympics, which began in 776 BC, was the 200m. A second event, the 400m, wasn't added until 52 years later.

## HOW DID THE SPHINX LOSE ITS NOSE?



The statue of the Sphinx, a reclining lion with a human head thought to represent Pharaoh Khafre, sits on the Giza Plateau in Egypt. Sadly the 4,500-year-old Sphinx is badly weathered and is missing its nose. Popular myth suggests that the face was damaged by cannon-fire during

Napoleon's Egyptian campaign of 1798–1801, but the nose disappeared long before the Emperor of France was born. In fact, close examination shows significant areas of chisel damage across the face, suggesting a deliberate attack, possibly a piece of religious iconoclasm in the 15th century or earlier. **MR**

GETTY

60

The number of maids-of-honour in the court of Queen Anne Boleyn.

## WHERE DOES THE FIRST PAPER COME FROM?

Confusingly, paper got its name from Egyptian scrolls made from interlaced strips of papyrus reed, a technology dating back 4,500 years. Paper itself was a later Chinese invention that required the pulping of cellulose fibres. Though it's possible people wrote on paper as early as the second century BC, classical legend states that it was invented in AD 105 by a Chinese court eunuch called Ts'ai Lun. He experimented with pulping whatever materials he could find, before hitting upon a combination of mulberry tree bark, fishing nets and cloth rags. **GJ**

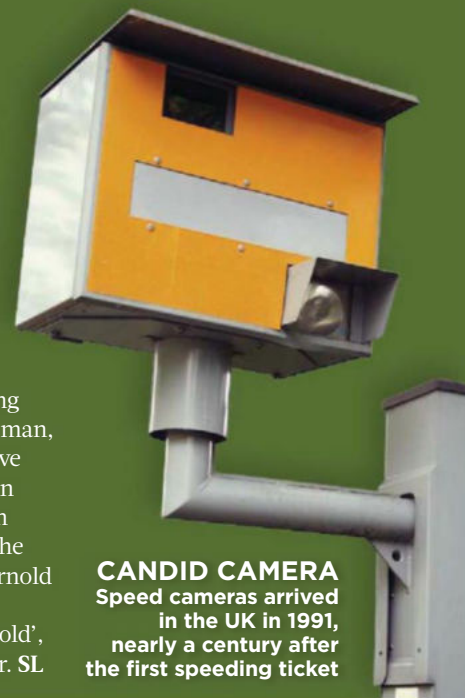
### DID YOU KNOW?

#### KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

The four grandparents of the famous Ancient Egyptian queen Cleopatra were brothers and sisters of each other, all being the offspring of Ptolemy VIII.

## Who clocked-up the first speeding ticket?

On 28 January 1896, Walter Arnold was successfully convicted by Tonbridge Police Court of driving at a death-defying 8mph in the built-up, 2mph zone of Paddock Wood in Kent. After a terrifying five-mile police chase involving a bobby on a bicycle, Arnold was fined a shilling (the equivalent of £5 nowadays). Far from putting off the Peckham car salesman, the incident seems to have inspired him. He went on to create his own version of the Benz motors that he was selling, before the Arnold Motor Carriage Company started manufacturing 'Arnold', Britain's first petrol engine car. **SL**



**CANDID CAMERA**  
Speed cameras arrived in the UK in 1991, nearly a century after the first speeding ticket

## When did people realise the world isn't flat?

Educated people in the Middle Ages were well aware Earth was a sphere. It had been known since the times of the Ancient Greeks and is mentioned in the writings of Aristotle and Ptolemy. Christopher Columbus faced opposition to his bid to sail to the East Indies not because people feared he'd sail off the edge of the world, but because they (rightly) thought he'd underestimated the length of the voyage. **RM**

## DID PEOPLE GO SWIMMING IN ANCIENT TIMES?

Swimmers appear on many early reliefs, sculptures and wall-paintings, such as those recorded from Assyria, Egypt and the Greek world, but swimming as both a sport and a pastime seems to be a relatively modern development. Many ancient cultures – the Romans in particular – possessed private pools and large urban bathhouses, but these were designed more for luxurious immersion rather than strenuous physical exertion. The earliest record of swimming as a specific activity does not occur until the late 16th century. **MR**

## A REVOLUTION IS NOT A BED OF ROSES

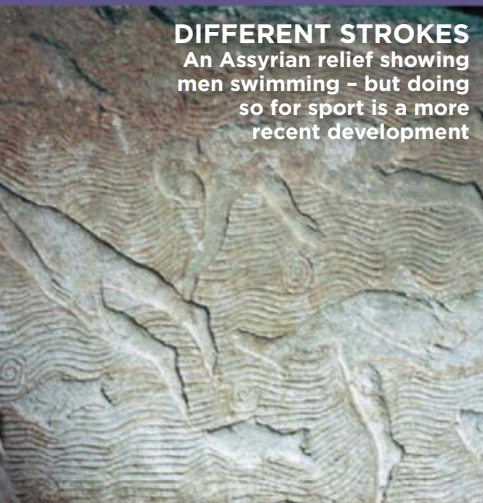
FIDEL CASTRO

Castro made this declaration in 1961 on the second anniversary of the Cuban revolution, referring to the turmoil that regime change can bring to daily life. "A revolution is a struggle to the death between the future and the past."



### DIFFERENT STROKES

An Assyrian relief showing men swimming – but doing so for sport is a more recent development



# IN A NUTSHELL WATERGATE

The political scandal that shamed the White House and brought down the President

**What was 'Watergate'?**  
At 2.30am on 17 June 1972, five burglars were discovered in the Democratic National Committee's headquarters in the Watergate Hotel, about a mile from the White House. The break-in, which took place five months before the US presidential election, sparked a series of events that changed the course of the country's history.

**Why was this burglary different to any other?**  
The break-in was a bungled follow-up to a forced entry the previous month, when the same men stole copies of top-secret documents and wiretapped the phones. When the wiretaps failed to work, they returned to finish the job. An FBI investigation revealed all five had links to the White House, in a chain of connections that went as high as Charles Colson, special counsel to President Nixon, and showed them to be members of the Committee to Re-elect the President – nicknamed CREEP.

**What was Nixon's response?**  
Keen to distance himself from the scandal, Nixon declared no-

one in the White House had been involved, but behind the scenes, he was involved in a massive cover-up. His campaign paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to the burglars to buy their silence. What's more, in a flagrant abuse of presidential power, the CIA was instructed to block the FBI's investigation into the source of funding for the burglary.

**When did cracks start to appear in the cover-up?**  
Although Nixon won the election in November 1972, the scandal escalated. By the following January, seven men ('the Watergate Seven') went on trial for their involvement: five pleaded guilty, with the other two – former Nixon aides G Gordon Liddy and James W McCord – convicted of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping.

Soon after, a letter written by McCord alleged that five of the defendants had been pressured into pleading guilty during their trial. Others, too, began to crack under pressure. Presidential counsel John

Dean, who initially tried to protect the presidency, was dismissed in April 1973 and later testified to the President's crimes, telling a grand jury that he suspected conversations within the Oval Office had been taped.

A tug of war ensued, with Nixon refusing to relinquish the recordings to Watergate prosecutors. But, in August 1974, following moves to impeach him, he did release the tapes. They proved his complicity in the Watergate cover-up and, on 8 August, he announced his resignation, the first US president ever to do so.

## Was Nixon the instigator of the whole affair?

It's unlikely Nixon himself orchestrated the break-in: a taped conversation between the President and his Chief of Staff has Nixon asking "Who was the asshole who did?". But his role in covering up his administration's involvement is unquestionable. At the time, however, Nixon was able to convince the public of his

innocence and he won the election with 60.7 per cent of the popular vote.

## What role did the media play in the President's downfall?

The media was instrumental in keeping the scandal in the public eye, none more so than *The Washington Post*. Its reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein broke the most significant stories of the affair, and their investigation is credited with bringing down the President. Their story is portrayed in the 1974 book *All the President's Men*, later a film.

## Who was 'Deep Throat'?

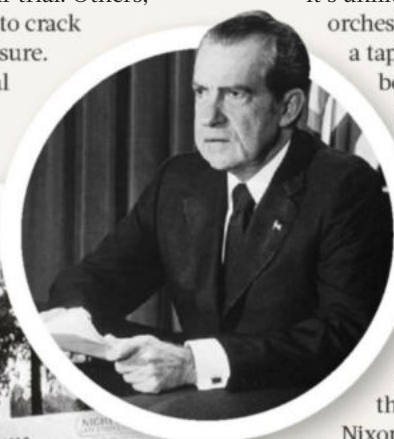
Woodward and Bernstein owe much of their success to a secret FBI source known as 'Deep Throat', who steered the pair in the right direction, allegedly urging them to "follow the money". Deep Throat remained anonymous until 2005, when he was revealed as FBI number two, Mark Felt.

## What were the consequences of Watergate?

Sixty-nine people were charged, with 48 found guilty, including Nixon's Chief of Staff and Attorney General. Nixon continued to proclaim his innocence, declaring in 1977: "when the president does it, that means that it is not illegal". He was eventually pardoned by President Ford, therefore escaping impeachment and prosecution.



**FIRMLY IN THEIR SIGHTS**  
Carl Bernstein (second left) and Bob Woodward (centre), the journalists who brought the White House down



**THE FALLEN PRESIDENT**  
LEFT: The day's papers signal Nixon's imminent resignation  
ABOVE: The President faces a prime-time national TV audience to deliver his historic words



## HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

## NOTRE DAME

Paris's Gothic masterpiece, 200 years in the making



In 12th-century Paris – wealthy and looking to boost its status on the national stage – the conditions were ripe for embracing the new, sophisticated, artistic architectural style we now call 'Gothic'. Sitting resplendently on Île de la Cité, the natural island in the centre of Paris's Seine, is an early example, and still one of the finest – Notre Dame Cathedral. Started by Bishop Maurice de Sully in 1163 and completed in 1345, it's a building that's witnessed some of the key moments in France's history, from the coronations of Henry VI and Napoleon Bonaparte, to the rioting of the Huguenots, pillaging of the Revolution and the beatification of Joan of Arc.

## SPIRE

A 19th-century reconstruction, it features verdigris copper statues of the 12 apostles.

## ROOF

Comprising 1,326 tiles, it weighs 210,000kg in total.

## THE NEW STYLE

Built on the site of a Roman temple, a Christian basilica and later a Romanesque church, Notre Dame was intended to pioneer the new airy, ambitious and ornate gothic style. A choir and apse, short transept and nave flanked by double aisles and square chapels, it showcases – alongside superb stained glass and sublime carving – the quintessential elements of gothic architecture – flying buttresses (added when stress fractures began appearing in the thin, high walls), pointed arches and stunning vaulted ceilings.



Flying buttress



Ogival arch



Rib vaulting

## THE APSE

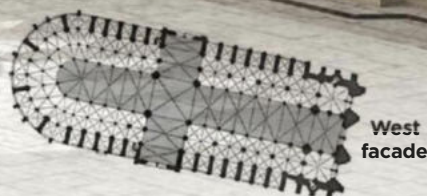
Supported by single-arch flying buttresses and featuring huge stained-glass windows.

## CHIMERAS &amp; GARGOYLES

Dozens of fantastic birds, beasts and demons decorate the cathedral, many with spouts that act as rain water drains. Most are actually 19th-century additions made by the architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc and the sculptor Victor Pyanet.

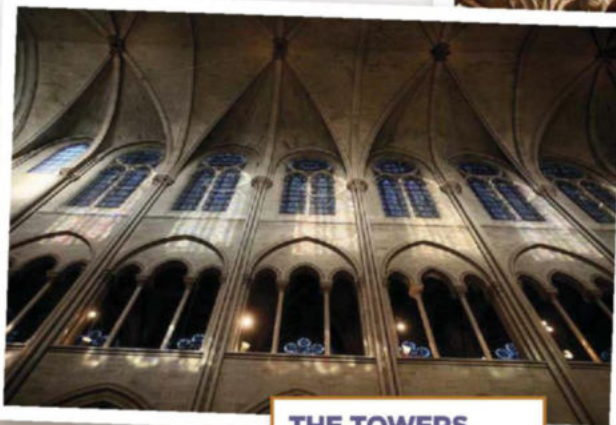
## FLOORPLAN

A transverse aisle bisects the nave to create a cruciform shape.



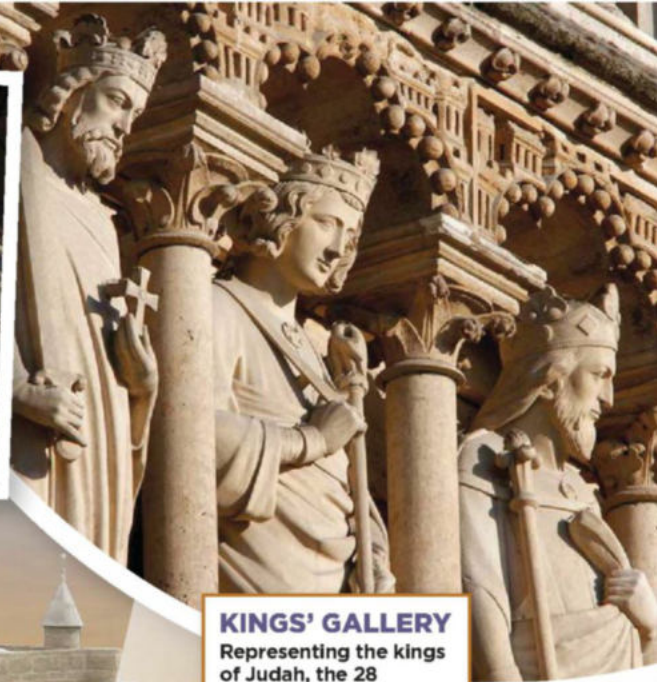
## NOTHING LIKE NOTRE DAME

A Gothic emblem and an icon of Paris, Notre Dame's construction involved generations of specialised craftspeople, including carpenters, glass workers and stone masons. By the mid 13th-century, the Gothic style had influenced palaces, universities, castles and town halls throughout Europe.



### THE TOWERS

At 69 metres tall, the towers take 387 steps to climb. The south tower houses Emmanuel, the biggest and oldest bell.



### KINGS' GALLERY

Representing the kings of Judah, the 28 statues were attacked during the Revolution and rebuilt later on.

### WEST FACADE

Initiated under Bishop Odo de Sully in 1200 and completed in 1250.

### ROSE WINDOW

The exquisite 9.6-metre window still features its 13th-century glass and forms a halo around the figures of Mary, Jesus and the two angels.

### CHIMERA GALLERY

Linking the two towers is a colonnade, where dozens of grotesque chimeras look down on the city below.

### PORTAL OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

Scenes of Christ's martyrdom and the Final Judgment greet you at the central entrance.

### THE VIRGIN PORTAL

This doorway is devoted to the life of the Virgin, a figure venerated throughout the cathedral.

### SAINT ANNE'S PORTAL

Installed around 1200 and devoted to Mary's mother, some of its materials came from the church that first occupied the spot where the cathedral was built.



## HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

Victor Hugo's oft-filmed 1831 Gothic romance (above is the 1982 adaptation) highlighted his keen interest in preserving the cathedral's beauty.

## WHY DO WE SAY...

## PAINT THE TOWN RED...

The most credible origin of the phrase comes from Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. In 1837, the inebriated Marquess of Waterford and equally refreshed pals sought to enter the town after a day at the races, but were stopped by a toll-keeper who asked them for payment. Seizing some nearby paint-pots, they painted both the toll-keeper and his toll-house bright red, after which they proceeded to do likewise with buildings right across the town. When he sobered up, the Marquess paid for all the damage.

## WHY DO AMERICANS CALL BRITS 'LIMEYS'?

In 1747, Scottish surgeon James Lind conducted the world's first clinical trial, proving that lemon or lime juice prevented scurvy, a disease caused by a lack of vitamin C and particularly suffered by sailors. The Royal Navy was persuaded to issue lime juice in its official grogram and British seamen became the healthiest in the world (for the time, at least). The term 'lime-juicers' was considered hilarious by Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans, and gradually became 'limeys'. This came to describe British land-lubbers as well, and eventually lost any connection with the sea. It was adopted by the Americans in the early 20th century. SL

**SCURVY-BUSTER**  
James Lind's research led to the limey nickname



456,000

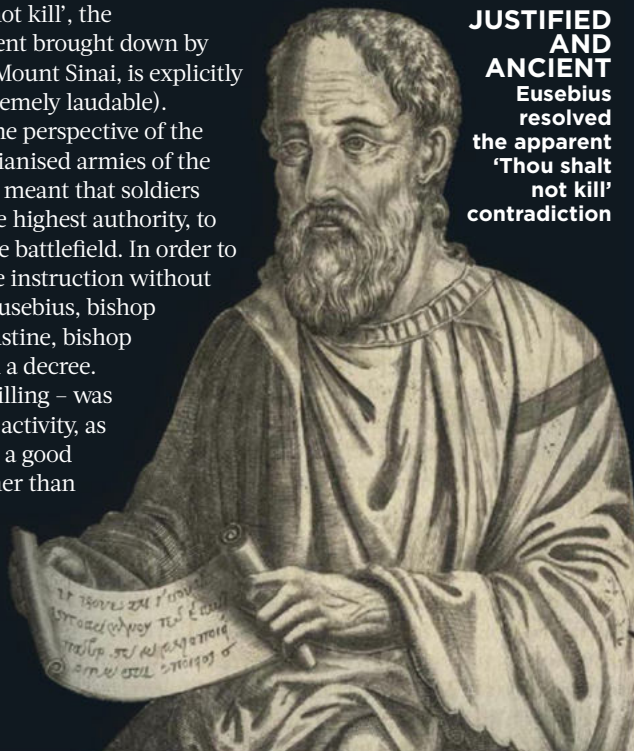
The number of years traditionally ascribed to the reign of Chinese Emperor Suiren.

## HOW DID EARLY CHRISTIAN ARMIES GET AROUND THE 6TH COMMANDMENT?



'Thou shalt not kill', the commandment brought down by Moses from Mount Sinai, is explicitly clear (and indeed extremely laudable). Unfortunately, from the perspective of the fourth-century Christianised armies of the late Roman Empire, it meant that soldiers were forbidden, by the highest authority, to kill their enemy on the battlefield. In order to circumvent this divine instruction without actually breaking it, Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea, and Augustine, bishop of Hippo Regis, issued a decree. War – and therefore killing – was a perfectly acceptable activity, as long as it occurred for a good and just purpose (rather than for self-gain) and was decreed by "a proper authority", such as the state. Sadly, things have never been the same since. MR

**JUSTIFIED AND ANCIENT**  
Eusebius resolved the apparent 'Thou shalt not kill' contradiction



## What is the earliest known cookbook?

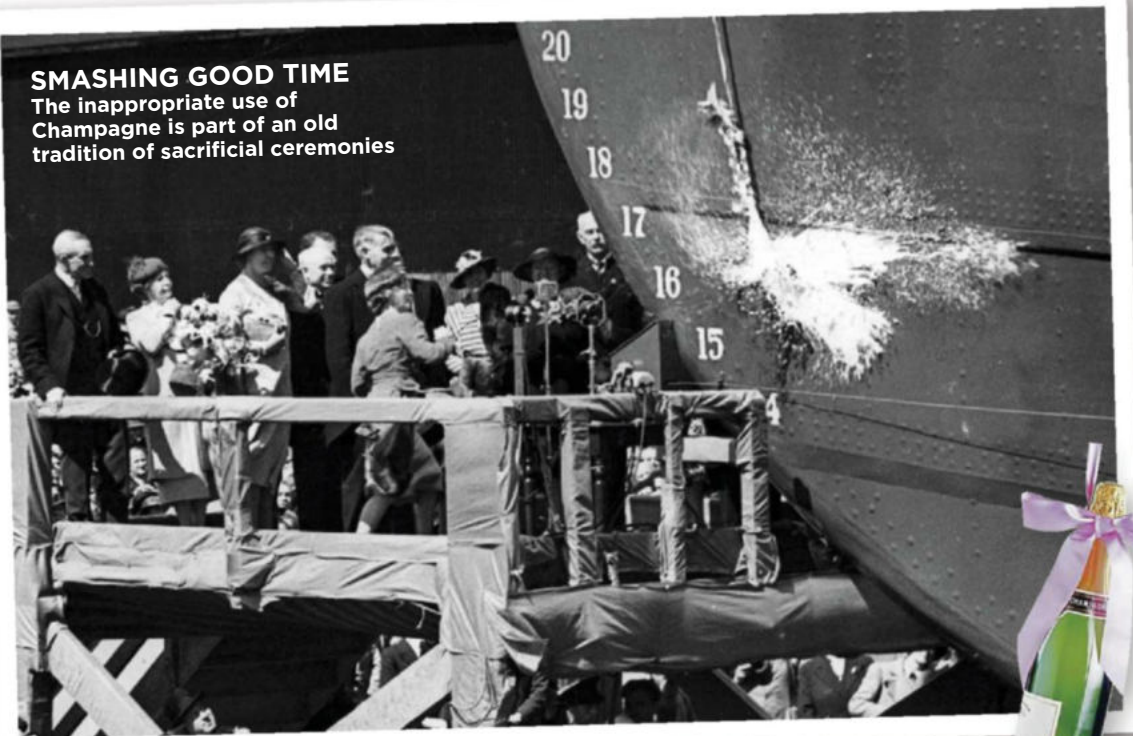
Recipes have been compiled in just about every literate human society. Perhaps the earliest-known collection dates to around the late fourth century, which was then copied into manuscript in the ninth century. Known as the *Apicius* manuscript or *De re conquinaria* ('On Cooking'), the work was written in Latin and organised into ten chapters, including 'Chopped Meats', 'Fowl' and

'Seafood'. The author 'Apicius' is most likely a pseudonym, referring to an extravagant gourmet of that name from first-century Rome. The first printed version came in 1498. EB




**WELL THUMBED**  
The recipe-packed, fourth-century *Apicius* manuscript was the *Mrs Beeton's Cookery Book* of its time

**SMASHING GOOD TIME**  
The inappropriate use of Champagne is part of an old tradition of sacrificial ceremonies



# Why is Champagne smashed on a ship before its first launch?

 Launching a ship has always been accompanied by some form of ceremony. The Babylonians are said to have slaughtered an ox whenever they launched a ship, while the Vikings killed a slave. In 15th-century England, it was customary for a representative of the king to drink a goblet of wine, sprinkle some on the deck of a new ship and then throw the goblet overboard. But, by the 18th century, so many ships were being launched that all this goblet throwing

proved expensive, so bottles of wine were used instead. The first time Champagne was used instead of wine was when the ill-fated USS *Maine* was launched in 1890. Champagne isn't exclusively used, though. Cunard ships are launched using white wine, the Queen used a bottle of whisky when she launched HMS *Queen Elizabeth* in 2014 and submarines are traditionally launched with a humble bottle of home-brew beer. JH

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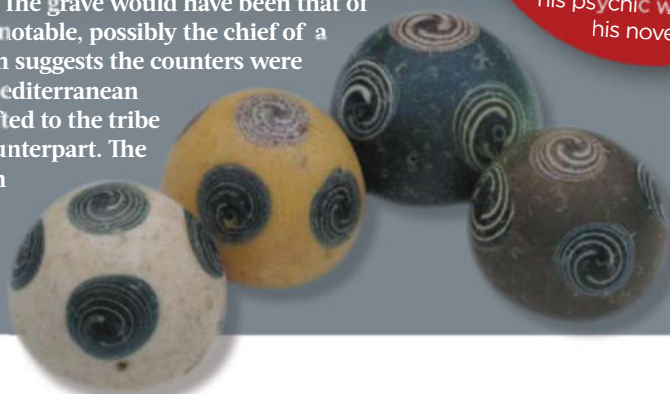


## WHO INVENTED MODERN DEODORANT?

 The story of modern hygienic products began in the late Victorian era, targeted solely at women. The first armpit deodorant was Mum in 1888, which required the user to spread a paste of bacteria-killing zinc oxide on the skin. By 1903, a rival product, Everdry, joined the field. This thwarted bad smells using aluminium chloride, but it was also the first sweat-blocking antiperspirant. Neither product was commercially successful. The revolution came when a new brand, Odorono, launched an aggressive advertising campaign to shame customers into fearing what others said about them behind their backs. This paranoia pressure marketing was massively successful and the industry took off. GJ

## WHAT IS IT?

 At first glance, these four handsomely decorated small glass objects resemble marbles, but their flat bottoms suggest they were from a board game. They were among 24 counters found in an Iron Age grave, discovered during the construction of a housing estate in Hertfordshire in 1965. The grave would have been that of someone particularly notable, possibly the chief of a local tribe. Speculation suggests the counters were made in the eastern Mediterranean and may have been gifted to the tribe leader by a Roman counterpart. The game would have been similar to draughts or ludo. [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)



## DID YOU KNOW?

### FAIRY FOLLOWER

In 1921, Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, publicised his staunch belief in the existence of fairies – to great public derision. He also regularly 'communicated' with the dead and wanted to be remembered for his psychic work, not his novels.

### COUNTER CULTURE

These objects survived more than 2,000 years underground

## NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

**Wondering about a particular historical happening? Get in touch – our expert panel has the answer!**



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Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

# HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p90 • BOOKS p92

## ON OUR RADAR

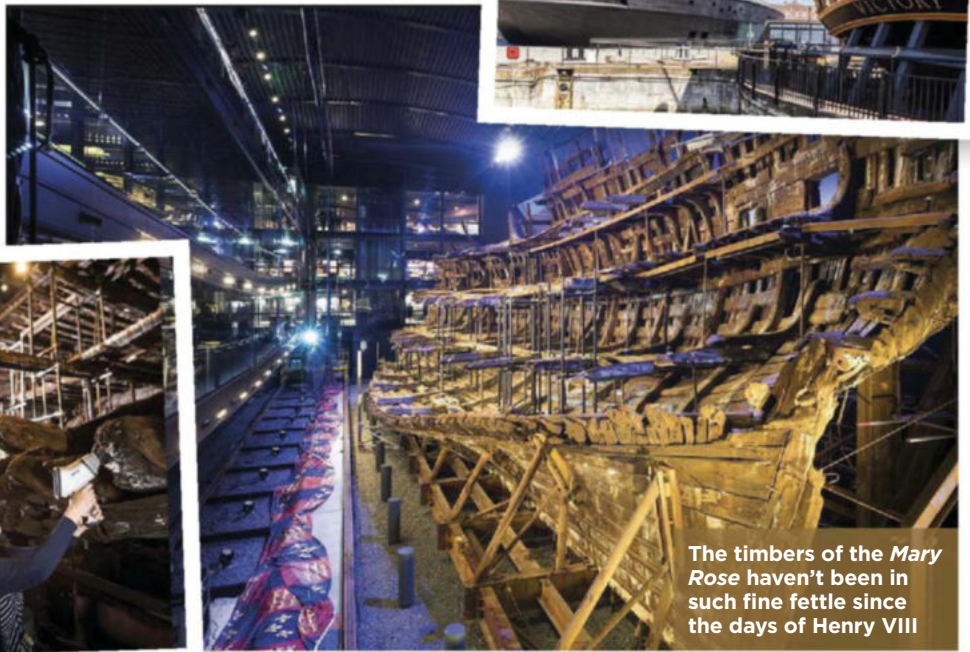
What's caught our attention this month...

### REOPENING

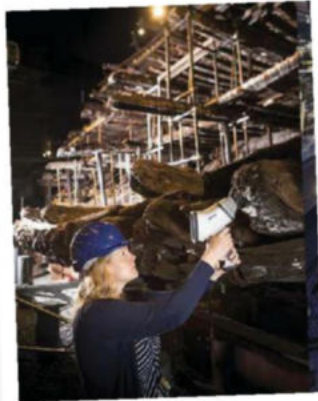
## Mary Rose Museum

Open daily at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Full details at [www.maryrose.org](http://www.maryrose.org)

After a six-month closure, the museum dedicated to **Henry VIII's warship** has flung open its doors again and now offers the best view of the vessel since it sank off the south coast of England in 1545. Entering into its **final phase of conservation** following its recovery from the seabed in 1982, the ship is no longer obscured by restoration equipment. There are also 19,000 recovered artefacts to peruse.



The timbers of the *Mary Rose* haven't been in such fine fettle since the days of Henry VIII



ALAMY XI, COURTESY OF THE MARY ROSE TRUST - CHRIS ISON #2/GARETH GARNER XI



Several Scottish kings and queens have been crowned at Stirling, including Mary in 1542

### EVENT

## Holding the Key to Scotland

24-25 September, Stirling Castle.  
Further info at [www.stirlingcastle.gov.uk](http://www.stirlingcastle.gov.uk)

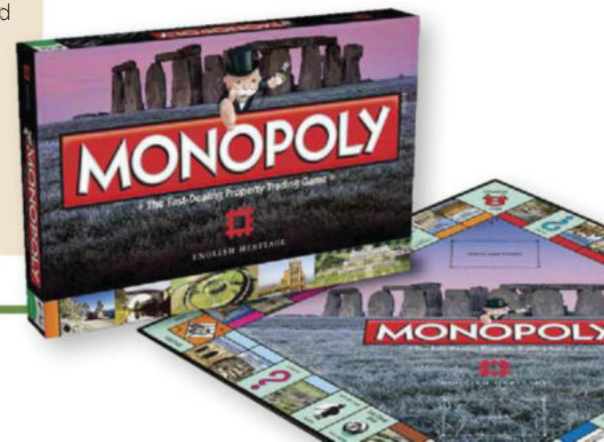
Stirling Castle has long been a pivotal site in the defence of Scotland. In 1651, **the castle was besieged** and ultimately captured by Oliver Cromwell's forces, events that will be re-enacted in **all their glory this weekend**. Meet the castle's defenders as they engage with the invaders and experience exactly what life was like under siege.

### TO BUY

## English Heritage Monopoly

£29.99 [www.english-heritageshop.org.uk](http://www.english-heritageshop.org.uk)

Capitalists become conservationists with this version of the **enduring family board game**. The locations are all English Heritage properties, such as Osborne House and Tintagel. But, please, don't build any hotels on Stonehenge.





It's 800 years since Henry II was crowned in Gloucester

## FESTIVAL

### Gloucester History Festival

3-18 September, various venues, Gloucester. Find out more at [gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk](http://gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk)

History addicts can fill their brains at the 2016 Gloucester History Festival, with **more than 100 events** taking place in various locations. On the 800th anniversary of **Henry II's coronation in this historic city**, speakers include historians Janina Ramirez, Tracy Borman and Marc Morris, and actor Mark Gatiss.



## MUSEUM

### Sick to Death

Open from now, Chester  
[www.sicktodeath.org](http://www.sicktodeath.org)

Describing itself as "the gory story of medicine through time", Sick to Death is a just-opened museum based within two historic towers on Chester's city walls. Its focus is exploring **the gruesome diseases** that have consumed the city over the centuries. Interactive exhibits shock and astound, while there's the chance of an encounter with Chester's infamous Plague Doctor.



Some 2.7 million sick or wounded soldiers were transported by rail from ports to hospitals during World War I

## EXHIBITION

### Ambulance Trains

National Rail Museum, York. Find out more at [firstworldwar.nrm.org.uk](http://firstworldwar.nrm.org.uk)

During World War I, ambulance trains brought the **sick and injured back from the frontline** to recuperate in safety. These trains were up to a third of a mile long, their carriages converted to accommodate **wards, pharmacies, emergency operating rooms, kitchens and staff quarters**. This

little-known aspect of the war effort is commemorated with this exhibition at York's National Railway Museum. Visitors can **climb aboard an ambulance train** and, through letters, diaries and photographs, as well as films and digital projections, be drawn into this **fascinating part of World War I history**.

## FILM

### The Infiltrator

In cinemas 16 September

Based on the memoirs of US Customs special agent Robert Mazur, *The Infiltrator* traces the fascinating story of how he infiltrated the inner workings of drug lords and uncovered **Pablo Escobar's money-laundering network**. *Breaking Bad*'s Bryan Cranston plays Mazur.



Bryan Cranston and John Leguizamo star in *The Infiltrator*

## ► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

► From 3-4 September, experience life in Roman times with Hadrian's Wall Live, featuring a large-scale battle, gladiator shows and a night-time patrol. [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)  
► *Boudicca - The Warrior Queen*, a family-friendly show in an Iron Age roundhouse at St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff. 24-25 September. [museum.wales/stfagans](http://museum.wales/stfagans)

### LIVE BATTLES

This year's re-enactment will be particularly epic, with weaponry production and medieval falconry



## BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

# BATTLE, HASTINGS

East Sussex

The atmospheric battlefield and abbey near the southern coastal town of Hastings mark the site of one of the most pivotal clashes in English history

#### GETTING THERE:

Head along Battle's High Street and the battlefield and abbey are well signposted. You can't miss the imposing gatehouse that marks the entrance. Battle train station is only half a mile away, and there are several bus services and a large car park.



#### TIMES AND PRICES:

Open 10am–6pm in the summer months, closing at 4pm in the winter. Entry is £11.20 for an adult and £6.70 for a child.

#### FIND OUT MORE:

Call 0370 333 1181 or visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

**T**he backdrop was the disputed crown of Edward the Confessor. His death in January 1066, having left far-from-clear instructions for his succession, was the crucible in which a perilous uncertainty for England was forged – had he promised the throne to Harold Godwinson on his deathbed, as Harold asserted? Or had he, years before, vowed to pass it on to the Norman duke William? And what of the Viking Harald Hardrada, also aggrieved to be overlooked as heir?

As the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings on 14 October approaches, there's no better

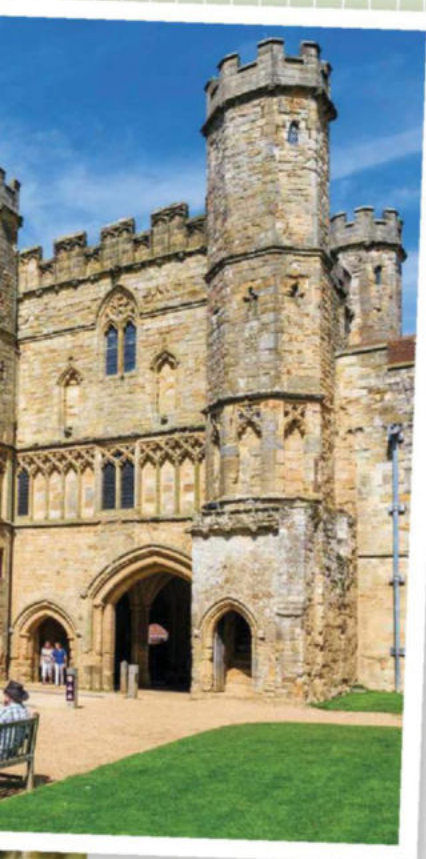
place to get a taste of the epic conflict that resulted from that uncertainty than the landscape that witnessed the battle itself. Battle, six miles inland from Hastings in East Sussex, marks the spot where, on that fateful, blood-soaked day, the forces of William the Conqueror squared up to those of King Harold.

#### FIGHT FOR THE CROWN

Although it was William and Harold who fought that day, unwittingly Harald also played a key role. He and Tostig Godwinson, Harold's brother, had just mounted an assault on the north of England, aiming

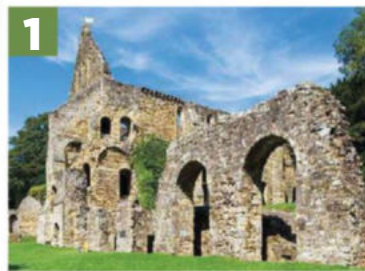
to wrestle back the earldom of Northumbria for Tostig and gain Hardrada a foothold to power. For a while it seemed that they would succeed, as victory in the Battle of Fulford on 20 September had been decisively theirs. However, King Harold force-marched his troops to York for a showdown at nearby Stamford Bridge. On 25 September, Tostig and Hardrada's troops were caught by surprise and poorly armed. The two leaders and most of the Norwegian horde were slain.

Meanwhile, the Duke of Normandy's 10,000 or so men had arrived in Pevensey on the south coast, unopposed.



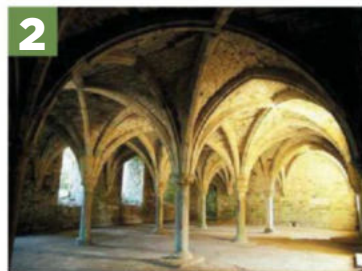
The gatehouse is now home to an exhibition on the battle and new viewing platforms

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



### 1 ABBEY REMAINS

The abbey was built by the Conqueror as penance for the bloodshed of the invasion, although not a great deal of the 11th-century structure remains.



### 2 DORMITORY

Many of the 13th-century vaulted ceilings remain impressively intact, like in the monks' dormitory, giving some sense of the grandeur of the abbey's heyday.



### 3 BATTLEFIELD

The Anglo-Saxons held the ridge (now under the abbey buildings), while the Norman invaders attacked up the hill. For hours the English shield wall kept their arrows at bay.



### 4 VISITOR CENTRE

The updated visitor centre features interactive displays, replica weapons and an introductory film describing events leading up to the battle, and the conflict itself.



### 5 GATEHOUSE

An imposing presence on Battle's High Street with its crenellations and arrow slits, the gatehouse's new open roof area gives a bird's-eye view of the battlefield.



### 6 WOODEN CARVINGS

Beautifully carved oak figures have been installed across the battlefield, evoking the drama. Visitors can collect a trail map on arrival to help them seek these out.

## “William built the abbey to atone for the bloodshed”

Although Harold was victorious at Stamford Bridge, his forces were weakened, not least by the 200-mile march back to London. So it was a huge tactical mistake to take on William just days later. The stage was set for a long and brutal day's fighting – a day when the path of history took a dramatic turn, ending the Anglo-Saxon era and starting the Norman one.

### WITNESS THE DRAMA

Head to the small town of Battle in '1066 Country' now and there's much to bring that pivotal time to life. You can walk in the steps of the soldiers on the battlefield (although the slope defended by the English is now much less steep) and overdose on atmosphere in the impressive abbey ruins. Built in

1070 by William to mark the site of his triumph and, under order from Pope Alexander II, to atone for the blood shed during his invasion, on its completion the abbey housed as many as 140 Benedictine monks. The nature of Harold's death is disputed (the arrow in the eye has been dismissed by some), but it's still thrilling to stand on the spot where the King was supposedly cut down.

Interpretive boards point out the key moments in the battle and there are audio guides available to get the full story. There's also a playground for the younger visitors and a café that looks out across the site.

Some new features have been put in place to mark the 950th anniversary – the great gatehouse

of the abbey has had its roof opened to create a bird's-eye view of the battlefield and surrounding landscape. There's also a new exhibition that explores events leading up to the battle and an hour-by-hour account of how the day's conflict unfolded.

The annual re-enactment (15-16 October) will be of epic proportions this year, with more than 1,066 fully costumed soldiers re-creating the carnage of the clash. You can also expect events in the town itself that weekend, including a torchlight procession and bonfire. A visit to Battle Museum is a must too to see the axe head found during roadworks in 1951, thought, somewhat surprisingly, to be the only surviving relic of the battle. 📍

## WHY NOT VISIT...

*Do like the Normans and go castle crazy in Sussex...*

### PEVENSEY CASTLE

At the spot where William's forces came ashore, the Normans built this castle upon the remains of the Roman fort Anderitum. [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/pevensey-castle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/pevensey-castle)

### ARUNDEL CASTLE

Head into West Sussex for this 11th-century hilltop gem that was home to the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors for 1,000 years. [www.arundelcastle.org](http://www.arundelcastle.org)

### BRAMBER CASTLE

Built soon after the conquest, only some parts of this typical Norman motte-and-bailey remain, but it offers stunning views of the South Downs. [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/bramber-castle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/bramber-castle)

# BOOK REVIEWS

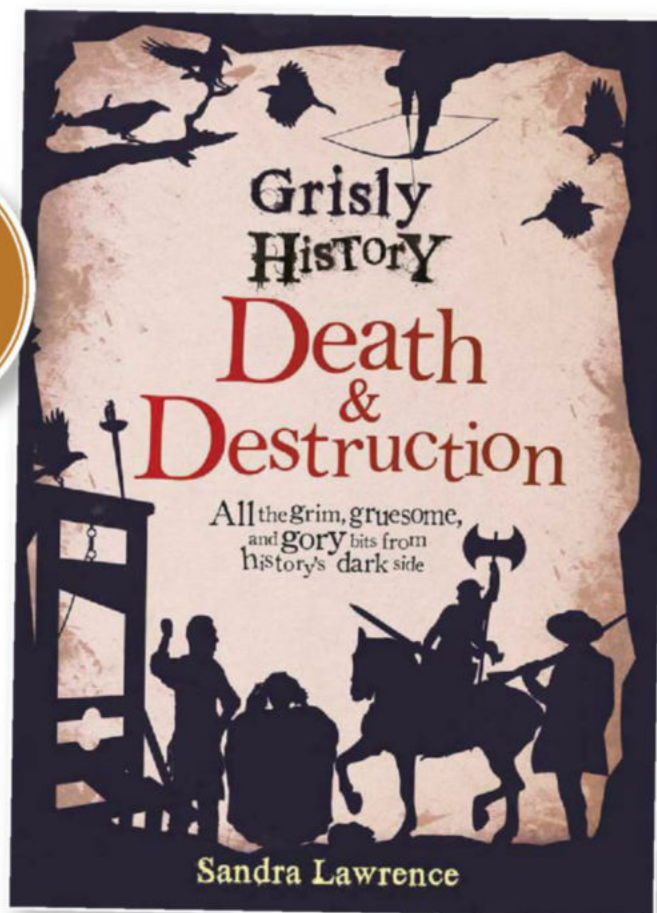
This month's best historical books

## Grisly History: Death & Destruction

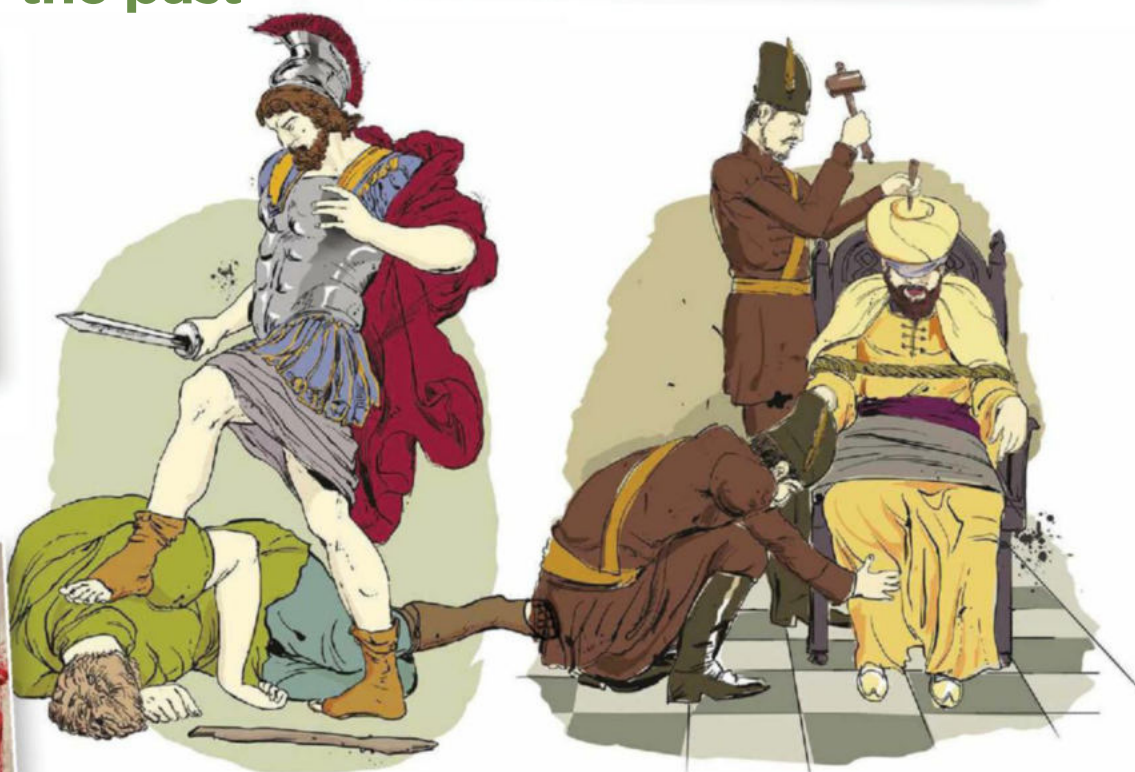
By Sandra Lawrence  
Little Bee Books, £9.27,  
64 pages, hardback

The success of *Horrible Histories* has firmly established that there's a throng of young history readers eagerly looking to delve into the more grisly tales of the past. Confidently making their debut in this growing market is a new series of slim, strikingly illustrated volumes from author (and *History Revealed* contributor) Sandra Lawrence. Among this batch of vividly titled *Grisly History* books is one focusing on death and destruction – from infamous warriors to urban legends and much else besides. It's a packed compendium of vignettes, providing a lively, often gory, look at the more bloodthirsty side of human nature.

BOOK  
OF THE  
MONTH



“There’s a throng of young readers looking to delve into the more grisly tales of the past”



Some of the macabre episodes illustrated in Sandra Lawrence's new book: A Roman soldier wreaks bloody revenge on Boudicca's rebels; international diplomacy, Vlad the Impaler-style, as a Turkish envoy's turban is nailed to his head for not removing it in Vlad's presence

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Sandra Lawrence** tells us about her interest in history's more gruesome stories and the challenges of writing about them for young readers

**History is littered with tales of death and destruction. How did you choose which to include here?**

I wanted to balance the familiar chestnuts, such as tales of Vikings and pirates, with left-field stories that might even surprise a few parents. I was also keen to include bad gals as well as guys, hence Boudicca rubs gruesome shoulders with Caracalla, and empress Wu Zetian shares bloody boasting-rights with Herman Mudgett, one of America's first serial killers.

**Are there any stories that particularly stand out for you?**

As a London fanatic, I loved researching the pages covering mass hysteria in the city, from the little-known Mohocks, a bunch of 18th-century bully-boys with friends in high places, through dandy highwaymen to urban legends such as Spring-Heeled Jack and the London Monster.

**This book is for young people. How did you deal with the tough subject matter?**

Obviously the fact that I was writing for a young age range – the books are aimed at children of about ten years and older – meant that some of the truly grim acts and 'scenes of a sexual nature' required delicate handling, but I was determined not to patronise or dumb down. Some of the profoundly grisly material had to be carefully phrased, however. I may have been a little vague about exactly which body parts were removed when someone was hanged, drawn and quartered, for instance. However, the book's punches are real and, I hope, will inspire young people to ask questions beyond its pages and start looking at history as a world of human beings, rather than gross-out playground gossip.

**If you could travel back in time and ask one of the characters in the book a question, what would you ask?**

In return for his life, the 17th-century Scottish sailor Captain Kidd offered to draw a map leading to treasure that he had allegedly buried on a desert island. The speaker of the House of Commons refused the trade and Kidd swung but I, along

with every other romantic in the world (including one Robert Louis Stevenson), would love to know if he was bluffing – and if not, where to get our hands on that loot.

**What do you think the book tells us about the violent nature of centuries gone by?**

I'm horrified to admit it, but it probably says 'plus ça change'. While I was writing this, alarming events were taking place in Syria – and closer to home – that, frankly, would have sat easily in the medieval sections of this book. I would like to think that young readers will ponder what it

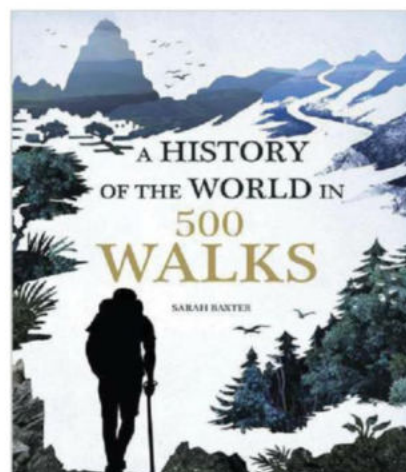
really means when humans do hideous things to each other.

**What subjects and themes do other titles in this series explore?**

The second book, *Trials and Trickery*, looks at crime, punishment and treason, from medieval trials by ordeal to prisons and executions. I had great fun with a section on celebrity executioners, for instance, and believe me when I say that no one wants to suffer death by elephant. I have a whole shopping list of unpleasant subjects that I'm gagging to explore, too – I'm particularly keen to delve into forgery and swindlers, and you can never go wrong with a good historical feud.



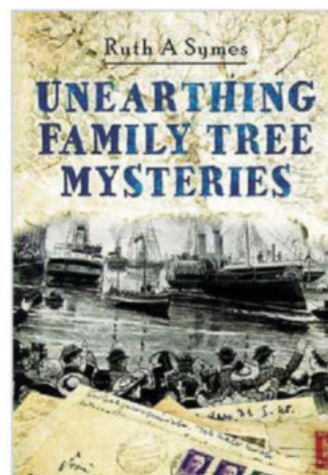
**"Some truly grim acts and 'scenes of a sexual nature' required delicate handling"**



### A History of the World in 500 Walks

**By Sarah Baxter**  
Aurum Press, £20,  
400 pages, hardback

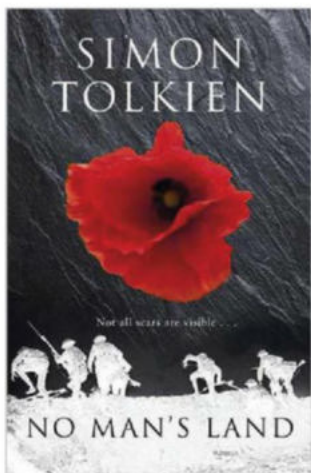
This beautifully produced book provides the chance to follow in our ancestors' footsteps – literally. From Australia to Offa's Dyke, the Neolithic to the 1970s, there's a huge range on offer. Helpful details of the length and difficulty of the walk are also included.



### Unearthing Family Tree Mysteries

**By Ruth A Symes**  
Pen and Sword, £12.99,  
144 pages, paperback

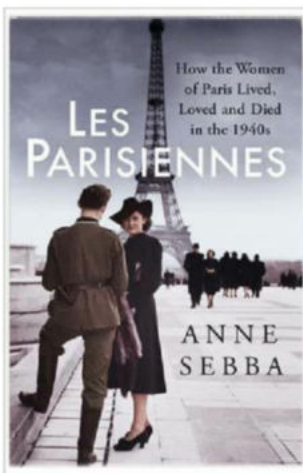
Are you thinking of tracing your family tree? This book offers an ideal place to start, suggesting valuable techniques on how to explore family stories and tricks to separate truth from fiction. Symes also offers a guide to the best online and printed sources to further your research.



## No Man's Land

**By Simon Tolkien**  
Harper Collins, £20,  
576 pages, hardback

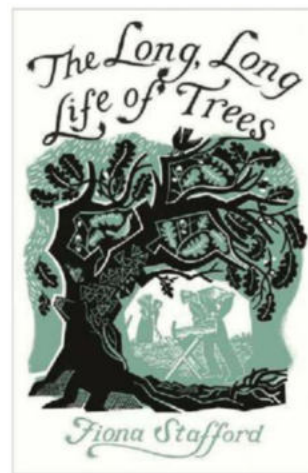
Inspired by the experiences of the author's grandfather – the great novelist of *The Lord of the Rings* JRR Tolkien – in the 1916 Battle of the Somme, this thought-provoking, touching novel tells the tale of a young boy in the conflict. Adam Raine's life is already marked by tragedy and misfortune, but then World War I changes everything for him.



# Les Parisiennes: How the Women of Paris Lived, Loved and Died in the 1940s

**By Anne Sebba**  
Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £20,  
480 pages, hardback

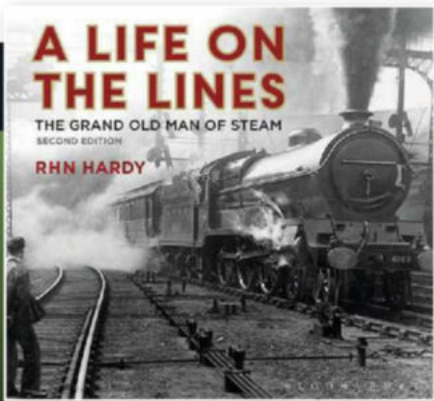
In World War II, the women of occupied Paris had to decide how to respond – should they resist? And if so, how? Sebba's compassionate, open-minded book tells some of their stories.



## The Long, Long Life of Trees

**By Fiona Stafford**  
Yale University Press, £16.99,  
288 pages, hardback

Just as important as symbols as they are shelter, trees have long been intertwined with human history. Here, Fiona Stafford takes a fascinating look at the stories of entire species (ash, oak, pine and the larch), and individual specimens, such as the yew where Henry VIII courted Anne Boleyn.



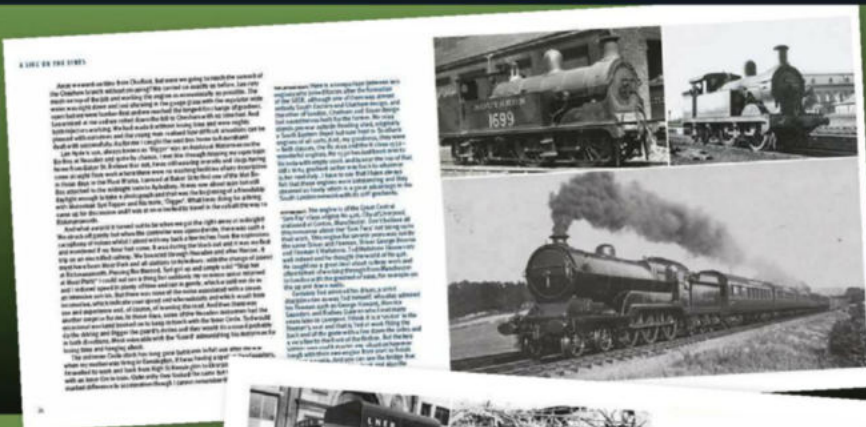
## Hardy introduces the people, places and, of course, the engines from his four decades on the railways

# A Life on the Lines: The Grand Old Man of Steam

**By RHN Hardy**  
Bloomsbury, £16.99, 192 pages, hardback

Now in its second edition and featuring unseen photographs from the author's collection, this stylish book offers a glimpse into a bygone age of steam travel. This is a valuable addition for any rail enthusiasts, or anyone who sees the romantic, nostalgic side of steam trains.

## VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH



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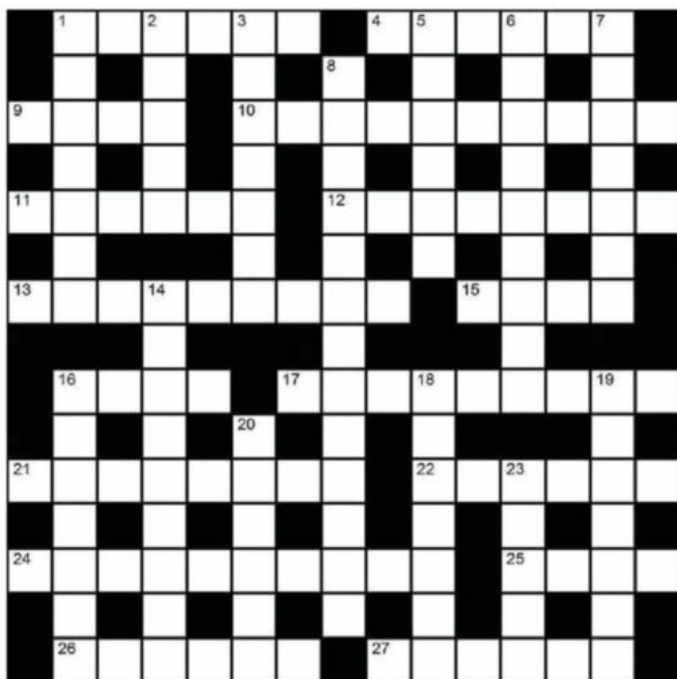
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†Lines are open Monday to Friday: 8am to 8.30pm, Saturday and Sunday: 10am to 2pm. Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your service provider's access charge. Call charges from mobile phones may vary.

## CROSSWORD N° 33

Complete our historical crossword and you could win a prize from the new blockbuster, *Ben-Hur*

Set by Richard Smyth



## ACROSS

- 1** The Mediterranean island occupied by Byzantine general Belisarius in AD 535 (6)  
**4** Sir Thomas More's 1516 work of political philosophy (6)  
**9** \_\_\_ Man, name given to early human fossils found in Indonesia in the 1890s (4)  
**10** Warwickshire town, 'Royal' and a 'Spa' since 1838 (10)  
**11** Member of a historic Nepalese military force (6)  
**12** Southern hemisphere island, formerly named after Dutch colonial governor Anthony van Diemen (1593-1645) (8)  
**13** Alan \_\_\_ (b.1946), Liverpoolian author of *Boys from the Blackstuff* (1982) (9)  
**15** Follower of a religion

- founded in the Punjab by Guru Nanak (1469-1539) (4)  
**16** Alan \_\_\_ (b.1936), US actor known for his lead role in the Korean War sitcom *M\*A\*S\*H* (4)  
**17** Yuri Gagarin, for example (9)  
**21** The 1959 epic western directed by Howard Hawks and starring John Wayne (3,5)  
**22** Anne \_\_\_ (d.1536), ill-fated second wife of Henry VIII (6)  
**24** Name commonly given to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Paris (5-5)  
**25** Lillian \_\_\_ (1893-1993), actor and 'First Lady of American Cinema' (4)  
**26** *Timon of* \_\_\_, play thought to have been written by William Shakespeare with Thomas Middleton (6)

- 27** "I liked my \_\_\_ short because I wanted to run and catch the bus" - sixties icon Mary Quant (6)

## DOWN

- 1** *The* \_\_\_, play (first performed in 1896) by Anton Chekhov (7)  
**2** William \_\_\_ (1770-1838), American explorer, associated with Meriwether Lewis (5)  
**3** Follower of a medieval religious movement led by theologian and church reformer John Wycliffe (7)  
**5** North Yorkshire town, home to the vet and author known as James Herriot (6)  
**6** In Greek mythology, a sculptor who fell in love with his own creation (9)  
**7** Jean \_\_\_ (1910-87), French dramatist, author of the 1944 play *Antigone* (7)  
**8** Defensive fort of a type built across the British Empire in the 19th century (8,5)  
**14** Suffolk town noted for being home to the composer Benjamin Britten (1913-76) (9)  
**16** Hero of a middle-eastern folk tale in *One Thousand and One Nights* (3,4)  
**18** Hosni \_\_\_ (b.1928), President of Egypt from 1981 to 2011 (7)  
**19** Either the 1922 novel by James Joyce or 1842 poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (7)  
**20** Scandalous, high-kicking music-hall dance popularised in 19th-century France (6)  
**23** Georg \_\_\_ (1849-1923), Austrian soldier and designer of a pistol used by Germans in the World Wars (5)

## CHANCE TO WIN

## Ben-Hur 3D games set!

To celebrate the release of *Ben-Hur 3D* - a re-imagining of Lew Wallace's epic novel of a noble in Roman times betrayed into slavery by his best friend - we are giving you the chance to win an ancient games set. *Ben-Hur 3D* is in cinemas from 7 September.



ANCIENT GAMES SET FOR THREE WINNERS

## HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, September 2016 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **september2016@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **14 September 2016**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

## SOLUTION N° 31



## CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS &amp; CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at [www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy).

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited

**NEXT MONTH**  
ON SALE **15 SEPTEMBER**



# WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

How an illegitimate son of Viking  
blood became King of England

**ALSO NEXT MONTH...**

**CUSTER'S LAST STAND** THE SEVEN WONDERS  
OF THE ANCIENT WORLD **100 YEARS OF THE**  
**TANK** HOLLYWOOD'S SILENT HEROES **ENIGMA:**  
**WWII'S SECRET BATTLE** CATHERINE THE GREAT  
**HISTORY'S GREATEST BEARS** AND MUCH MORE...

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# A-Z of History

Venture and voyage into **Nige Tassell's** valedictory vault as he to vows to view a volume of vintage vignettes

## VIEW OF THE VIKINGS

It wouldn't be until the 19th century – the best part of a millennium after they marauded, raided and pillaged across Europe – that the Vikings became known as Vikings. Swedish writer Erik Gustaf Geijer popularised the word in his poem, *The Viking*, in an attempt to romanticise and soften the legend of the uncompromising and vicious Norse invaders.

## VOGUE'S VARIED VISION

These days, *Vogue* is the epitome of high-gloss fashion photography, but that wasn't always the vibe of the magazine. Launched in 1892, the first 19 years of American *Vogue* featured only exquisite, stylised drawings, with the first fashion shoot not appearing in its pages until 1911. Even then, it took another two decades, in 1932, for *Vogue's* covers to feature the kind of full-colour vibrant shots that have made the mag so iconic.

## Vulture versus vehicle

The highest recorded bird flight in history took place in 1973, but it required the death of a griffon vulture to verify it. Airline pilots are used to bird strikes but when the victim bird struck a plane flying over Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa) it was at an altitude of 37,000 feet (more than 11,000 metres).



## V FOR VICTORY

In January 1941, Victor De Laveleye, a Belgian politician working as a radio announcer in London, suggested the letter 'V' could be the symbol of resistance to Nazi Germany. It stood for *victoire* (meaning victory in French) as well as *vrijheit* (Flemish for freedom). The symbol, daubed on walls across Europe, was adopted as Winston Churchill's famous finger gesture the following July.

## VACATION ON VAN DIEMEN'S

In 1642, Dutch adventurer Abel Tasman landed on uncharted land. Now Tasmania, he originally named it Van Diemen's Land after his compatriot Anthony Van Diemen, Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies. But it would take 156 years before explorers realised the territory was, in fact, an island.

## VICTORIAN VALUES OR VICE

The strict and prudish behaviour of the Victorians may be less buttoned-up than expected. Take Queen Victoria herself, a voracious collector of nudes, be they photos, paintings or sculptures. While the more conservative quarters declared them vile and "lewd", she regularly presented valuable nudes to husband Albert as gifts.

## Volcanic Vesuvius causes vamoose

An act of God caused Britain to host the 1908 Olympics. When Mount Vesuvius erupted two years earlier, on 7 April 1906, Italian resources earmarked for the Rome Games had to be diverted to cope with the clean-up in Naples. Vexed, Italy handed the baton onto London where the event was a huge success, not least for the home nation. Britain, for the only time to date, topped the medals table.

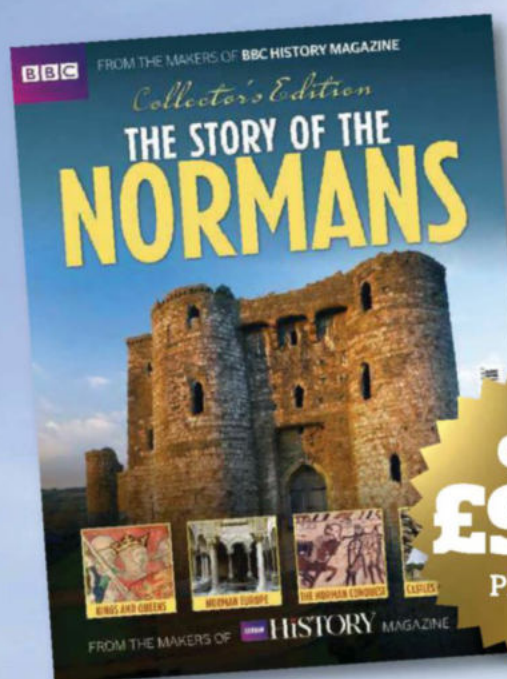
## VIRTUOUS VISITOR

Discovering Chedworth Roman Villa – one of the largest villas unearthed in this country – came down to a lone critter. In 1864, Gloucestershire gamekeeper Thomas Margetts was digging out a ferret when his spade hit fragments of paving and pottery. After intensive excavations, the vastness of the furry vagabond's dwelling was revealed.

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# Your next break in Normandy?

2016 marks the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Norman invasion.

Born in Falaise, William, Duke of Normandy, became the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, the story of which is told in the unique Bayeux Tapestry. To celebrate this occasion, from summer through to December, there will be medieval merriment for everyone throughout Normandy with street markets, festivals, music, dance, sound and light shows and special exhibitions in the towns and villages associated with William the Conqueror and his momentous expedition.

**A très bientôt en Normandie !**

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